

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRIVATE SECURITY EXAMINERS

Held on Thursday, December 13, 2018

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners

15703 Old Hammond Highway

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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1 APPEARANCES :

2 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION,

3 CHAIRWOMAN MARIAN H. PIERRE

4 VICE CHAIRWOMAN MARIA LANDRY

5 RITCHIE RIVERS

6 EDWARD ROBINSON, SR.

7 WILBERT SANDERS, JR.

8 MISTY FINCHUM

9

10 FABIAN P. BLACHE, III, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

11 RONALD CROUCH, ATTORNEY

12 BRIDGETTE HULL, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

13 SHARON VALLERY, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR 4

14 DALTON MCRIGHT, CPA

15

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20 REPORTED BY: KELLY S. PERRIN, CCR

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1 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 Hello. The meeting is now called to
5 order. Bridgette, would you do a roll call,
6 please?

7 MS. HULL:

8 Misty Finchum?

9 MS. FINCHUM:

10 Here.

11 MS. HULL:

12 Durell Pellegrin?

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 Not present.

15 MS. HULL:

16 Mark Williams?

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 Not present.

19 MS. HULL:

20 Edward Robinson?

21 MR. ROBINSON:

22 Here.

23 MS. HULL:

24 Marian Pierre?

25 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 Here.

2 MS. HULL:

3 Maria Landry?

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Not present. On her way.

6 MS. HULL:

7 Wilbert Sanders?

8 MR. SANDERS:

9 Here.

10 MS. HULL:

11 Ritchie Rivers?

12 MR. RIVERS:

13 Here.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 We have a quorum?

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 We do.

18 MS. HULL:

19 Yes, we do.

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 All right. Can we stand for the Pledge?

22 Thank you.

23 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 And can we briefly have a moment of

1 silence --

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Yes.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 -- for all of our law enforcement and
6 security officers who have been injured and/or
7 killed in the line of duty and anyone we've
8 lost from our security family?

9 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Would it be necessary to read the
14 previous minutes of the meeting? I think
15 everybody has had a chance to review them.
16 Could we just move to adoption of the previous
17 minutes?

18 MR. ROBINSON:

19 So moved.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 He needs a second.

22 MR. SANDERS:

23 I'll second.

24 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

25 It's been moved and seconded and we'll

1 adopt the minutes of the previous meeting as
2 is.

3 Okay. Ron, legal updates?

4 MR. CROUCH:

5 We had two hearings at the last Board
6 meetings. Those decisions are being drafted
7 at this time. We're not quite through
8 circulating that through the office yet. And
9 I think the Director and I will be giving you
10 a comprehensive, legislative overview or
11 revision of your statutes that are probably
12 sometimes out of date, but we are going to be
13 starting on that next month and any rule
14 revisions.

15 Have I explained to you -- oh, Amy from
16 Taylor Porter contacted me yesterday. She
17 informed me that none of -- neither the Board
18 nor any of you members have been properly
19 served with that lawsuit. Consequently, she
20 is just waiting on the time to run. And this
21 is kind of the end of the rope at this point.
22 Once the time period has run, she will file a
23 motion to dismiss the lawsuit with every
24 expectation that that motion will be granted.
25 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 Would you mind, Ron, just telling what
2 lawsuit we're talking about?

3 MR. CROUCH:

4 We're talking about the Feti lawsuit in
5 Federal Court and there's also been a separate
6 filing in State Court.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 Right.

9 MR. CROUCH:

10 And she will be dealing with both of
11 those at the same time. And, additionally,
12 Fabian was sued separately and individually,
13 and he has his own separate attorney has been
14 assigned to represent him. I represent the
15 Board. Amy and I work together on that part
16 of it. I'll leave Fabian to address you with
17 regard to the other one.

18 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

19 If I'm not mistaken, we were sued
20 collectively --

21 MR. CROUCH:

22 Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 -- and individually?

25 MR. CROUCH:

1 And individually, that is correct. And
2 she's representing each of you individually
3 and the Board. So we have every expectation
4 that that lawsuit will be dismissed for
5 failure to serve it properly in Federal Court.

6 One other thing that I'm not sure you're
7 aware of, do you guys or have you familiarized
8 yourself with the dentistry situation? There
9 was a U.S. Supreme Court decision dealing with
10 boards that are made up of market
11 participants. That's you guys, okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Right.

14 MR. CROUCH:

15 And the U.S. Supreme Court said that you
16 can't do that. As a result of that decision,
17 the Federal Trade Commission came to Louisiana
18 and brought suit against the Board of Real
19 Estate Appraisers. The State has fought that
20 lawsuit and it is presently in the Fifth
21 Circuit Court of Appeals.

22 But as a result of that litigation -- and
23 litigating against the Federal Government is
24 so incredibly expensive and incredibly
25 difficult to deal with. At the last

1 legislative session, a commission was created
2 by the legislature that is part of the
3 Governor's Office, and I do not know whether
4 there have been any appointments to that
5 commission yet or not.

6 But any regulation that boards like you
7 that are made up of market participants, those
8 proposed regulations will have to be approved
9 by that commission. And the commission is
10 made up of people that are not market
11 participants before it can go to the register
12 and be promulgated. It's an extra step in the
13 process.

14 I don't think it will be a great
15 impediment. Because generally speaking, the
16 people on those commissions don't know the
17 first thing about what you do, but it's
18 something that's kind of been expected for a
19 number of years. Because while I've never
20 actually experienced it, the U.S. Supreme
21 Court said there's every opportunity for you
22 guys to affect the free trade, the free
23 market. You don't do it, but you see the
24 possibility that you could.

25 And the dentistry, the dentists were

1 doing it. They wanted to prevent dental
2 hygienists from practicing their trade, unless
3 they were employed by a dentist. Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Right.

6 MR. CROUCH:

7 So I just wanted to make you aware of
8 that. I don't think it's a big hill to climb.
9 But any regulations that we propose have to go
10 through that commission.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Have they picked the members of that yet?

13 MR. CROUCH:

14 My last check was probably a month ago.
15 And to my knowledge, it has not been done.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 So that will be done by the Governor's
18 Office; is that correct?

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Yes.

21 MR. CROUCH:

22 That's correct.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Okay. So I guess we need to stay in
25 touch and find out when they --

1 MR. CROUCH:

2 Yeah. We check the website pretty
3 regularly, because every lawyer in my section
4 promulgates rules. And so we're all faced
5 with it. And I don't think there's -- except
6 for the State Uniform Construction Code
7 Council, every board --

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 Is composed of --

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 -- or commission that we represent is
12 exactly like that, made up of market
13 participants. And so ...

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 Well, who better to police the
16 industry --

17 MR. CROUCH:

18 Yeah. Absolutely.

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 -- than people who participate in it --

21 MR. CROUCH:

22 Absolutely.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 -- on a daily basis?

25 MR. CROUCH:

1 Absolutely. It makes perfect sense to
2 me.

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 Absolutely.

5 MR. CROUCH:

6 But --

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 We have doctors, lawyers, and Indian
9 chiefs --

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 Absolutely.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 -- on a Water Board that makes no sense
14 rather than having people who are familiar
15 with water intake on that Board.

16 MR. CROUCH:

17 There's a Federal decision out of
18 California that's likely to do away with the
19 Bar Association because the Bar Association
20 doesn't regulate lawyers. They just collect
21 money.

22 MR. ROBINSON:

23 Wow.

24 MR. CROUCH:

25 You know, I aged out on continuing legal

1 education and I've said since then, they don't
2 care whether I'm incompetent or not, they just
3 want my money.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 But they -- don't you have to have the --
6 do the annual courses? You don't have to do
7 that anymore?

8 MR. CROUCH:

9 I don't.

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 Okay. Because you -- okay. Because
12 after a period of time, you age out of it?

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 Hmm, I didn't know that.

15 MR. CROUCH:

16 That's correct. They're not going to
17 teach me anything anyway.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 I didn't know that.

20 MR. CROUCH:

21 But the -- I'm too existence.

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

24 MR. CROUCH:

25 Absolutely. I've been doing this too

1 long. Thirty-eight years, I've got my mind
2 made up. But the -- they don't regulate us.
3 We are Officers of the Supreme Court. We are
4 licensed by the Supreme Court. And the
5 Disciplinary Council is what regulates us.

6 So the Supreme Court in California said
7 you're just a -- you're just a conduit for
8 money. So anyway, I don't know where that's
9 going to all go. So I believe that's it for
10 me. I'm going to go back to --

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 And you --

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 Well, that's the same thing we're
15 fighting against right now in New Orleans
16 because we have the special officers --

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 Yeah, and we're going to --

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 -- that they don't regulate.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 We're going to talk about that.

23 MR. CROUCH:

24 Did that get resolved?

25 MR. BLACHE:

1 We're going to --

2 MR. CROUCH:

3 Okay.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 That's in my update. We are going to
6 have a spirited conversation about that.

7 MR. ROBINSON:

8 Oh, good.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 And we have a date coming up and I have
11 to get with you for the --

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 For the judiciary chair?

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 Yeah, for the -- you to meet with the
16 chair.

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 Okay. Great. I just want to mention
19 just so that you feel lonely and on an island,
20 Feti also decided to sue law enforcement too
21 now; right? Didn't he?

22 MR. CROUCH:

23 Yeah.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 He's now sued the Sheriff's Office and

1 the City Police and some other folks for when
2 they arrested him at the Texas Club for false
3 imprisonment charges that stem from illegal
4 activity he was engaging as a security
5 operator. So he's still wallpapering the town
6 with --

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 Well, it's good to have company. It's
9 good to have company.

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 Lawyers are not cheap by the way.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 No. No. No, definitely not.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 Well, I meant I guess she's going to give
16 us an update as to where she is at some point
17 because I haven't heard from her.

18 MR. CROUCH:

19 Amy?

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Amy. Since we sent her the information
22 that she requested.

23 MR. CROUCH:

24 Yeah. She had a conflict for today. She
25 was going to come, but she passed on to me, no

1 worries. You know, if for some reason Feti
2 survives the Motion for Summary Judgment, then
3 we will get into the real catfight of the
4 litigation by taking depositions and so forth.
5 But I don't anticipate, I really don't
6 anticipate any of that happening.

7 I anticipate the judge dismissing the
8 thing on the Motion for Summary Judgment
9 because you guys have not been served
10 properly. Now, he may then have an action
11 against his attorney for malpractice, but ...

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 I'm sure he'll file it. I have no doubt
14 in my mind.

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 So that's our legal update for today,
17 Ron?

18 MR. CROUCH:

19 That's it, unless you have some questions
20 for me.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 I don't have any. Does anybody else have
23 any as it relates to the Feti case or what's
24 happening with it?

25 MR. ROBINSON:

1 No, we just sent everything to Amy.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 So I guess now, we move to the budget.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 Want to go over the budget with us?

8 MR. MCRIGHT:

9 Yeah. Y'all ready to go?

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 Let's go.

12 MR. ROBINSON:

13 We're ready for you.

14 MR. MCRIGHT:

15 I think y'all have a handout with the
16 financials as of June 30th.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 Uh-huh.

19 MR. MCRIGHT:

20 We'll start off with the balance sheet.
21 Once again, the main thing to point out is
22 y'all have cash in CDs or money markets
23 totaling \$951,000. And y'all have property,
24 land, and equipment depreciated value of
25 \$390,000. With the cash of \$950,000, y'all

1 have liabilities at the bottom of the page of
2 \$946,000. So y'all are in real good shape as
3 far as being able to pay off any potential
4 liabilities y'all have. That includes the
5 post-retirement benefits of \$587,000, so that
6 puts y'all in real good shape.

7 As far as the year ending June 30th,
8 y'all end with an operating loss of \$159,000.
9 That will be presented on the June 30th, those
10 three pages, numbered pages one, two, and
11 three. And it starts off with the revenues.

12 The first column is what actually was
13 entered on the books as of June 30th, 2018.
14 The second column is the original budget. The
15 third column is the variance with that
16 original budget. And then the last column is
17 our projected income and expenses and amended
18 budget for 6/30/18. This is -- we present
19 this so that we can -- when y'all accept it at
20 the end of the discussion, this meets the
21 qualifications that the legislative auditor
22 requires that y'all approve a budget, even
23 though we were supposed to have done this back
24 in June. We didn't have a quorum, so we
25 wasn't able to do it. So we have to do it

1 now. They didn't write us up on it because it
2 was just nothing we could do about it.

3 All right. Coming down this one here,
4 during the year ending June 30th, y'all had
5 \$757,000, roughly \$800,000 of actual fees
6 taken in. This compared to us budgeting 732.
7 So y'all were really \$25,000 to the good on
8 that.

9 Then below that, y'all have fines of
10 \$165,000. We originally estimated 150. So
11 y'all were above there.

12 Fingerprint income, you had \$90,000, and
13 we budgeted 76.

14 Bank card fees is kind of a new category
15 because we're collecting monies through
16 ImageTrend.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 ImageTrend.

19 MS. VALLERY:

20 ImageTrend.

21 MR. MCRIGHT:

22 Right. So there's some income that we
23 get from that -- those monies that we post
24 those separate. It's just like interest
25 income, which is the next item. And then we

1 have our other miscellaneous income and the
2 NSF recovery, which is just redeposit of
3 checks and that people had given us and didn't
4 clear the first time.

5 (MARIA LANDRY ENTERS THE PROCEEDINGS)

6 MR. MCRIGHT:

7 The expenditures on the first two pages
8 are broken down for the biggest item y'all
9 have is salaries and benefits. Y'all spent
10 \$889,000 on all of the salaries and benefits
11 for the employees. This is up over what we
12 have budgeted by about \$124,000. That was due
13 to some change in personnel. And increased
14 health insurance, retirement, and all that
15 went up at the same time.

16 We had contractor services totaling
17 \$120,000. The other travel and education was
18 \$15,000. Total repairs and maintenance was
19 \$27,000 for the year.

20 Going over to the other page was other
21 operating expenses of \$72,000. And occupancy
22 received costs was \$27,000. Excuse me.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Excuse me. Would you like to get some
25 water or something?

1 MS. VALLERY:

2 She's getting it.

3 MR. MCRIGHT:

4 All of a sudden, the sinuses started
5 working.

6 Down at the bottom was the -- now, I
7 can't read through my glasses. I'm doing real
8 good this morning. The total fixed asset
9 additions was \$35,000 during the prior year.
10 Coming down to a total, then it comes to net
11 loss, in effect, was \$159,000. And we had
12 projected a breakeven. So we ended up with a
13 variance of 159,000.

14 The last column, we budgeted for next
15 year, this was a rough budget. This will have
16 to be amended. We're already going to make
17 some changes to it, but this was just to meet
18 the June 30th deal that we had to have a
19 budget presented by that time.

20 So we already know we're going to make
21 some adjustments to it and we'll see when we
22 get into the current operating expenses here.

23 So as part of today's deal, we really
24 need to, if y'all agree with what we've
25 presented here, y'all will need to accept this

1 and approve it as far as the official budget
2 for the year; and also, that we've presented
3 the final financial statements for the year as
4 required by the legislative auditor.

5 Y'all also have a group of papers
6 called -- dated November the 30th. This is
7 where we're up through and then the books, as
8 I know we've got everything posted up to date
9 to that point.

10 MR. ROBINSON:

11 Just a question.

12 MR. MCRIGHT:

13 At this time, we're showing for the, I
14 want to say, five months ended, we're showing
15 \$112,781 loss so far this year. This is not
16 unexpected. We've made some changes to the
17 way the fees are renewed and stuff. So it's
18 more of a timing difference. This should take
19 care of itself, I think, by --

20 MS. VALLERY:

21 By March.

22 MR. MCRIGHT:

23 -- March.

24 MS. VALLERY:

25 Uh-huh.

1 MR. MCRIGHT:

2 Then, we should start showing this number
3 going down the rest of the year.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Okay. Any questions?

6 MR. ROBINSON:

7 Yeah. I just had the question that, we
8 approving this budget, but you also say
9 there's going to be some changes. So we're
10 approving it without the changes; is that what
11 you're saying?

12 MR. MCRIGHT:

13 Well, the reason we ask you to approve
14 this one, this is the one that was published
15 on the website and this is accepted by the
16 Legislative Auditor's Office.

17 MR. ROBINSON:

18 All right.

19 MR. MCRIGHT:

20 So we need to have one approved that they
21 got a copy of.

22 MR. ROBINSON:

23 Okay.

24 MR. MCRIGHT:

25 Now, it's not unusual for us to amend it

1 during the year. Like, I know we're going to
2 have some repairs and maintenance that we've
3 already done some of it during this coming
4 year that we didn't anticipate. So we will
5 have to amend for that. When we do that,
6 we'll take care of any increases in revenues
7 and stuff that we are now projecting we didn't
8 have knowledge of in June 30th.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 Okay. And thank you. And we'll be
11 getting a copy of that when you make the
12 amendment; is that correct?

13 MR. MCRIGHT:

14 Yes. It has to come before y'all.

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Any questions?

17 MS. FINCHUM:

18 I have some questions in regards to the
19 overspending as far as the loss is concerned.
20 The budget that we approved whenever these
21 expenditures came in that we're exceeding what
22 the budget was, when were those approved by
23 the Board and by whom?

24 Because we -- the budget has been
25 overspent by over a hundred thousand dollars,

1 so I've got lots of questions about that.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 So we had a meeting in June where we
4 didn't have a quorum. That's where Mr. Dalton
5 was going to present that budget, if I
6 remember correctly; right?

7 MR. MCRIGHT:

8 I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 We had a meeting in June that we didn't
11 have the quorum for and that's where we were
12 going to present the budget --

13 MR. MCRIGHT:

14 Yes.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 -- and then whatever legislatively
17 mandated adjustment for any variances that had
18 to appear.

19 MR. MCRIGHT:

20 Yeah.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 That would have been in June.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 So which means that because we did not
25 have the general meeting, that wasn't a

1 discussion because we did not have a quorum.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 And then in the September meeting, we had
4 the two hearings, and then that ran very long.
5 There was a motion to adjourn and address the
6 budget at the next meeting, which is this
7 meeting.

8 MS. FINCHUM:

9 Well, my questions come into play as far
10 as the spending beyond the budget at the time
11 those spending, those expenditures are
12 occurring. Is any of that being addressed
13 with the Board over and above what the amount
14 is budgeted?

15 MS. VALLERY:

16 This budget is going to be amended, but
17 we had to present this one because this is the
18 one the Legislative Auditor had to have.

19 MS. FINCHUM:

20 My question really isn't about what the
21 budget is.

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 Okay.

24 MS. FINCHUM:

25 My question is --

1 MS. LANDRY:

2 About the overspending.

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 -- about exceeding that budget. When is
5 that getting approved?

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 So I think we -- I think what her
8 question is, is that who approved when it was
9 overspent? Who approved the overspending?

10 MS. FINCHUM:

11 Correct.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 And so if the overspending was not
14 approved and what they're saying, I think,
15 Misty, I think they're saying to us is that
16 this is the -- this is the budget that they
17 had to turn in that actually will be an
18 offset. There will be no overspending. This
19 will be adjusted.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 No, ma'am.

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 Is that not what you're saying?

24 MR. MCRIGHT:

25 Well, if you look at --

1 MS. FINCHUM:

2 No. The year is already over.

3 MR. MCRIGHT:

4 -- the budget versus actual for June 30th
5 that we were going to present in June, we
6 showed that salaries were up, salaries and
7 benefits were up by 124,000 by what we had
8 budgeted. And that's the majority of what we
9 were out for the year. We were out a total of
10 159. The 124, we really had no control over
11 other than to let somebody go before --

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 But I'd like to ask, how did we over
14 budget \$124,000 in salaries?

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 So it's a combination of, we had two WAE
17 positions, which are temp positions, that we
18 brought in because we were transitioning into
19 ImageTrend. And we had, starting from January
20 of '17, where we were just back in the offices
21 normally from the August '16 flood and
22 rebuilding the building, we were then six
23 months behind on paper applications. So we
24 had just an incredible backlog of paper
25 applications that we had to deal with.

1 So we brought in a WAE position, which
2 was Ebony at the time, to help us with the
3 front so we could reallocate people to doing
4 the backlog work. That involves the WAE.

5 Then, we brought in a student worker so
6 we wouldn't have, you know, benefits there
7 necessarily. And we brought them in to assist
8 us with scanning and other related duties that
9 related to ImageTrend and implementation of
10 ImageTrend.

11 So we're in this flux right now where
12 starting in May and through now, we've been in
13 this transition from going to paper to
14 electronic, but we still have an obligation to
15 address all the paper applications that we've
16 had that have had this five-, six-month long
17 tail running on it. So by bringing in -- by
18 creating the WAE position, which is a
19 mechanism Civil Service affords us to be able
20 to bring somebody in and limit them to 1250
21 some odd hours, and then you can reallocate
22 it, we've had one, two -- we've now -- we've
23 had three WAE positions in that time frame, in
24 addition to the fact that we had planned
25 increases for staff with the changes of the

1 salaries from administrative coordinators up.
2 There was a market rate adjustment. And then,
3 it's retirement and the other elements that
4 are factored into that that are not within our
5 control.

6 MS. LANDRY:

7 Now, and you mentioned the paper
8 applications. Are we caught up on that or do
9 we still have --

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 We are still entering and scanning paper
12 applications.

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 How many would you think we still have?

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 We probably have 1500.

17 MS. VALLERY:

18 At least.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 When I -- yeah. When I got to the agency
21 in March of 2016, when I looked at what we
22 were entering at that time, we were about six
23 months behind. And we were catching up
24 towards the end of the year. We were tracking
25 to catch up and close the gap. Then, we

1 flooded in August and that threw it completely
2 out of kilter.

3 So we basically stayed static on how far
4 we were going to be behind because of what
5 happened with the office. So, like I said,
6 when we got in the offices again officially
7 with phones running and fax line, and the
8 whole nine yards, that wasn't until mid
9 November, we were then just now, okay, getting
10 everything back in place. We're six months
11 behind fingerprints, applications, renewals,
12 et cetera.

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 And I know I'm getting off track here --

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 No. No, that's fine.

17 MS. LANDRY:

18 -- but it has to relate to the budget.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Uh-huh.

21 MS. LANDRY:

22 So do we have checks attached to those
23 applications still that are 1500 applications?

24 MS. VALLERY:

25 Oh, no.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 No.

3 MS. VALLERY:

4 Absolutely not.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 No. No, I've -- revenue wise, we've
7 brought in more in fees and fines than we had
8 projected. That wasn't an issue. No, we
9 don't hold checks.

10 MS. LANDRY:

11 Okay.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 We process payments and get people where
14 they need to be. That old Legacy system and
15 with the paper system, that was the huge issue
16 that we walked -- that I walked into when I
17 got here was, we're six months behind the day
18 I hit the door. And the question is why. And
19 the why is because you got 20 days to send in
20 all the paperwork. It's coming in 30 and 40
21 days later. Everybody is doing this. You get
22 your football season starts up. Landmark
23 dumps 800/900 apps on you. Before you know
24 it, you've got what we have.

25 So we're now at the point, we had 3,000

1 in change at one point. Now, we're down into
2 the 12/1500 range at this point. And I'll get
3 into some more of the ImageTrend numbers and
4 explain to you what's really happening in real
5 time with that, but that's something we want
6 to work ourselves out of so that we can put
7 the paper to rest once and for all.

8 But we knew that we couldn't do that
9 overnight when we turned this on basically
10 June 1st. But we've been ramping up for it
11 all along trying to work the backlogs down and
12 using extra personnel and things of that
13 nature.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 Because, if you remember, we had a lot of
16 people that had not been processed for a long
17 period of time and we're still waiting on
18 cards for them.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Uh-huh, cards. Yeah.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 And we were calling saying, we're waiting
23 on cards for them, and they had a backlog then
24 to six months or more that we were waiting for
25 cards for guards themselves, the official

1 cards.

2 MS. LANDRY:

3 Yeah. And I don't want to get off track
4 from the budget.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 Uh-huh.

7 MS. LANDRY:

8 But just having paper applications still
9 in a box that's 1500, and those guards are
10 still working off of the temporary ones.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Many of them are now transitioning to
13 ImageTrend. And, like I said, when I get to
14 ImageTrend numbers and show you the
15 difference, you'll see what I'm talking about.
16 But most of them are now in the new system,
17 but we're still needing to maintain that
18 documentation because of the retention
19 schedule at the Secretary of State's office.
20 So that's why we couldn't just do away with
21 it.

22 MS. LANDRY:

23 Okay.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 We have to touch it and we have to

1 address it.

2 MS. LANDRY:

3 Okay.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 I guess my other question I have is with
6 the addition to the additional staff and
7 things of that nature, that would be something
8 brand new that wasn't included in our budget.
9 And I just feel like that's something that
10 should have been brought to the Board and not
11 just added on by the office without at least
12 discussing it with us since this is what we
13 had budgeted for.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 But we had it on the agenda for
16 September, but we motioned to --

17 MS. FINCHUM:

18 When were those people hired?

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 We had -- we have had three -- two WAEs.
21 So let's see, Wendy Loften was hired in May,
22 right, and then Ebony was prior to that, and
23 then Raven was even prior to that. So that
24 was back in January.

25 MS. FINCHUM:

1 But knowing that was going to push you
2 over the budget, that should have been brought
3 to us --

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 That's --

6 MS. FINCHUM:

7 -- beforehand --

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 But that's --

10 MS. FINCHUM:

11 -- not in June.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 That's what we prepared to -- no, that's
14 what we -- that's the purpose of the
15 Legislative Auditor's mandate that the budget
16 be amended. You're made to --

17 MS. FINCHUM:

18 We're not required to approve this.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 No.

21 MS. FINCHUM:

22 So if you're going to spend over what
23 we're approving to be budgeted, then that
24 needs to be addressed with us before those
25 dollars are spent, knowing that's going to

1 push you over this budget.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 The way it works with the Legislative
4 Auditor's requirement is that you amend the
5 budget to within 10 percent of whatever your
6 real expenditures are. One year --

7 MS. FINCHUM:

8 This is beyond 10 percent.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 I know that. One year, we exceeded it by
11 10 percent. We were above and we had to amend
12 it down. We did that in 2017. We had the
13 converse of it where we had -- I think we
14 were -- can't remember the exact number we
15 were over, but it was a significant number.
16 And we had said we were going to bring in X
17 dollars and we brought in tremendously more
18 money, and we still had to amend that budget
19 for the legislative auditor's purposes down to
20 within -- is it five percent?

21 MS. VALLERY:

22 Five percent.

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 Five percent.

25 MS. FINCHUM:

1 Amending the Legislative Auditor's budget
2 is not what I'm referencing.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 No.

5 MS. FINCHUM:

6 I'm strictly talking about what we
7 approve --

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 Yeah.

10 MS. FINCHUM:

11 -- versus what's being spent.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 No. We're amending the Agency budget to
14 present to the Legislative Auditor. Am I
15 stating that correctly?

16 MS. FINCHUM:

17 I understand what you're saying --

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Okay. I just want to --

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 -- but it's not what I'm talking about.

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 Okay.

24 MS. FINCHUM:

25 I'm just talking in general what we

1 approved --

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 Uh-huh.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 -- it's making it appear that we're -- we
6 made an approval, and then the office,
7 yourself, chose to hire all these extra people
8 that knowingly was going to send this over
9 budget, and you just did that. And now,
10 you're just wanting us to approve it after the
11 fact. I just don't think that's appropriate
12 to handle it in that manner.

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 Okay. I have an obligation to run the
15 agency and make sure that we're doing things
16 that we're doing. I've had mandates from the
17 Board in other board meetings saying, why is
18 it taking so long to get this done? Why is
19 that taking long? In those minutes in those
20 meetings, it's like, if you need to hire
21 somebody, then you need to hire somebody.
22 Okay. I've had individual conversations with
23 Board members who have asked me that question;
24 do you need additional personnel, et cetera?
25 The WAE mechanism is designed to make it a

1 nonpermanent situation so you can scale up and
2 scale back as you need to.

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 I just think proper approval is necessary
5 when it comes to overspending at that dollar
6 amount.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 I'm not disputing that.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 I don't disagree with what you're saying.
11 But I think if we had had that June meeting
12 and if we had the appropriate amount of people
13 at that June meeting, we would not be at this
14 issue today. Because then, we would have
15 known about it and we would have an
16 opportunity then to make any adjustments or
17 ask any questions at that time. But because
18 we didn't have a quorum, and this is an
19 important part of being a part of this Board
20 is being able to attend the Board meetings so
21 that we will have a quorum so that these kinds
22 of things won't happen without our further
23 discussion about it and moving forward.

24 But we knew that there was a problem. We
25 knew that when we went into ImageTrend, we

1 knew that when we changed over that we were
2 going to have to have a lot of help to change
3 over to the new system. We knew that the
4 paper system was not a workable system. So we
5 have to know when we were hiring these people
6 that when we were bringing on these people, we
7 had the people before us on several occasions
8 talking about their positions.

9 I think, Misty, you've met with some of
10 them, some of the people, the temporary people
11 who were here, Ebony and some of those people,
12 so we knew that they were aboard. So we knew
13 that they had to be paid. So to be able to
14 move over to this system that we're presently
15 using, we knew that those people like Ebony
16 and some of the other people that followed
17 Ebony or preceded Ebony had to be paid for
18 those positions.

19 So in our June meeting, that would have
20 been a discussion. And I agree with you that
21 nothing should go forward without the Board's
22 approval. So moving forward, that's the way
23 it will be handled, but we have to be here to
24 handle it.

25 Any other questions?

1 MS. LANDRY:

2 No, just discussion. I just, I don't
3 know -- unfortunately, I got here late because
4 there was a semi with a bunch of apples that
5 was all over the road in Hammond, so I did not
6 have time to look over this and read it. And
7 I -- I just cannot approve this. And I
8 understand where you're coming from, Fabian,
9 but I also understand where Misty is coming
10 from.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Uh-huh. Yeah.

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 And I agree with her. One hundred fifty
15 thousand or whatever it is over budget, that's
16 excessive. I think it's excessive.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 Any other questions? Any other
19 discussion?

20 MR. ROBINSON:

21 Okay. If we're not going to approve it,
22 then what is the other direction?

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Well, I meant, that's up to the Board
25 whether or not we approve it with the

1 adjustment --

2 MR. ROBINSON:

3 Yeah. I'm just --

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 -- that was recommended. I meant, that's
6 your decision to make.

7 MS. LANDRY:

8 I mean, why can't we just table it?

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 Those are options. I mean, it's up to
11 the Board. It's up to the membership of this
12 Board to decide whether they want to table it
13 and review it later.

14 Is there a deadline for us to do this?

15 MR. MCRIGHT:

16 Not now. We're past the deadline
17 already.

18 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

19 Okay.

20 MR. MCRIGHT:

21 I'd like to point out one thing, if I
22 could, if the Board would give me just a
23 second here. The last column on the projected
24 budget for this coming year, that's the column
25 y'all are operating under right now.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Right now, uh-huh.

3 MR. MCRIGHT:

4 And it is y'all's prerogative to direct
5 Fabian to review this, come up with a better
6 budget for your next meeting. We can then tie
7 it in a little closer. Y'all would have
8 access to what we're looking at. And that
9 way, you would know what you're operating
10 under the current year. All the other stuff
11 is in the prior year. It's just not anything
12 we can do about it right now other than put
13 procedures in effect to say, we need to be
14 informed how the budget is going to affect.

15 Like when they get a Civil Service raise,
16 do we anticipate that at the next Board
17 meeting? Y'all need to be informed of that
18 and y'all need to amend it at that time,
19 instead of waiting until June 30th to do it.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Okay.

22 MR. MCRIGHT:

23 Because June 30th may be okay, but we may
24 be past it like we were this time. And then
25 it really -- it really looks a lot worse

1 because of that because we might could have
2 made some adjustments in May to take care of
3 some of that loss that showed up at June 30th.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Yeah.

6 MR. MCRIGHT:

7 And I think that's what you were getting
8 at too.

9 MS. FINCHUM:

10 Right.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Right.

13 MR. MCRIGHT:

14 But you need access to the current
15 information.

16 MS. FINCHUM:

17 Right.

18 MR. MCRIGHT:

19 I mean, what happened happened. We just,
20 we got some stuff in and there were raises and
21 pensions, all, everything just went up at one
22 time in there, and health insurance and all
23 that went up. And so it wasn't an election
24 that we wanted to pay this. We didn't have
25 any --

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Choice.

3 MR. MCRIGHT:

4 -- chance but to do it. But y'all needed
5 to be informed that we were going to be
6 digging into some of the reserves to pay this.
7 Luckily, y'all have plenty of reserves. So
8 it's not a big financial problem on y'all.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 Thank you. So if you want to make a --
11 if you'd like, Misty or Maria, you can make a
12 motion to table it if you'd like.

13 MR. SANDERS:

14 Wait. Question?

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Yeah, go ahead.

17 MR. SANDERS:

18 We have two budgets here, November and
19 June.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Right.

22 MR. SANDERS:

23 Are we considering approving both of them
24 or just one each or disapproving or tabling
25 one each? Are we considering both of them or

1 what?

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 That's a question for you, sir.

4 MR. MCRIGHT:

5 I'm sorry?

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 The question was whether or not we're
8 considering tabling both or one?

9 MS. VALLERY:

10 There's only one budget.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 There's only -- but what he's talking
13 about --

14 MR. SANDERS:

15 There's only one budget?

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 But what he's talking about, he's going
18 back to the November --

19 MR. MCRIGHT:

20 The fourth column is actually --

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 -- through June.

23 MR. SANDERS:

24 Right.

25 MR. MCRIGHT:

1 That final column is actually a budget
2 that for -- amended budget for last year and
3 projected budget for next year.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Uh-huh.

6 MR. MCRIGHT:

7 You can actually amend -- I mean adopt
8 the first three columns and say, okay, no,
9 we'll adopt this as our official yearend
10 statement. We can come back next time with
11 this last column broken out between amending
12 last year's and projecting what we're going to
13 do for this coming year and present a budget
14 for that if that would be to the Board's
15 approval.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 That sounds like a simpler way to do it.
18 Would that -- would you guys be in agreement
19 with that?

20 Any questions?

21 MR. SANDERS:

22 No. I don't have any.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 So if there's no questions --

25 MS. FINCHUM:

1 I do have one question.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Okay.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 In regard to the report that you've given
6 to us, I would like to see about getting this
7 sooner than the day of the meeting. It's --
8 when we come in here and have to look at it
9 right now, I don't really have a lot of time
10 to kind of see if I have additional questions.
11 I mean, I'm sure you guys are in the same
12 boat.

13 So when is -- when could this possibly be
14 available to us prior to a meeting? How much
15 time could you give us to review this?

16 MR. MCRIGHT:

17 It could -- if we would have done it
18 through October, we could have given it to
19 y'all a week or so ago.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 So, I mean, a week in advance, we could
22 start doing that in the future?

23 MR. MCRIGHT:

24 Now, we may be a month off depending on
25 --

1 MS. FINCHUM:

2 But, I mean, it would just give us some
3 time to have some time to review it.

4 MR. MCRIGHT:

5 Right. You know, it's almost impossible
6 to do it, say, the week after the end of the
7 month.

8 MS. FINCHUM:

9 Yeah.

10 MR. MCRIGHT:

11 But it's not a problem to do it the month
12 prior to that and give you current figures up
13 to that.

14 MS. FINCHUM:

15 Okay. If we could please request that
16 we -- would you all be interested in also
17 receiving that?

18 MS. LANDRY:

19 Oh, I would. Absolutely.

20 MR. MCRIGHT:

21 And if y'all want to put it off, like I
22 say, y'all have already passed your due date,
23 we could just bring it back before the Board
24 next time with the statements and go actually,
25 go ahead and amend prior year's a little bit

1 better to show what -- it's still going to end
2 up showing a loss. We just can't do anything
3 about that because we can't project monies
4 that we're not going to get in.

5 We could say, okay, the Board is going to
6 approve us moving \$159,000 from surplus to
7 cover known overages for 6/30/18. That's
8 still after the fact and it's --

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 Let me -- let me ask a question. Okay.
11 What -- I guess my question is this, is that
12 while we're getting it early, if you're able
13 to get it to us earlier, what -- is there a
14 problem with getting it to us earlier than us
15 receiving it the day of the Board meeting? Is
16 that an issue for you? Because you need to
17 let us know that, if that's an issue. Or
18 would that be possible for you?

19 MR. MCRIGHT:

20 No. Like I said, we can -- we could do
21 it --

22 MS. VALLERY:

23 Time could have been --

24 MR. MCRIGHT:

25 If we'd have gave it to you for October,

1 you could have had it a week or so ago.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Okay.

4 MR. MCRIGHT:

5 That's just -- I mean --

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 But is that a possibility moving forward?

8 MR. MCRIGHT:

9 If there's a policy y'all want to
10 establish, we can live with it.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 Okay. That's what I'm asking, can you
13 get it ready for then?

14 MR. MCRIGHT:

15 Okay.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 You can?

18 MR. MCRIGHT:

19 Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 So that might be something that we,
22 moving forward, that we do it that way. And
23 that's why I wanted to ask you, is that
24 possible for you to have it ready for us in
25 advance? Sharon, you've got --

1 MR. MCRIGHT:

2 Yeah, I have to look at Sharon on that --

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 Yeah.

5 MR. MCRIGHT:

6 -- because she's the one that gets the
7 information to me.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 She gets the information, I know.

10 MR. MCRIGHT:

11 But a month behind, we should have no
12 problem with it.

13 MS. VALLERY:

14 Right. Like if your next meeting is
15 March, we can have it ready January, end of
16 January.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 Okay.

19 MS. VALLERY:

20 Right?

21 MR. MCRIGHT:

22 Yeah.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Okay. Yeah, I just needed to know from
25 you, Sharon --

1 MS. VALLERY:

2 Yeah. Yeah.

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 -- and from you whether or not you can
5 get those numbers, because I know you're doing
6 those numbers.

7 MS. VALLERY:

8 It would just be a month ahead -- it
9 would be a month behind. Those numbers are
10 going to be January 31st.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 Right.

13 MS. VALLERY:

14 Instead of February 28th.

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Okay.

17 MS. VALLERY:

18 So, yeah.

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 So that's possible?

21 MS. VALLERY:

22 Yeah, we can do that.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 So that's something we'll look at moving
25 forward.

1 MS. VALLERY:

2 Sure.

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 So as it relates to this particular
5 budget, do we have a motion to table it or to
6 approve or a motion to approve every column,
7 the three columns?

8 MS. FINCHUM:

9 I would like to make a motion to table
10 it.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 Okay. Maria?

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 I'm going to second it.

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Okay. Cool. It's been moved and
17 seconded. So the budget will be tabled until
18 the next meeting with the provision that the
19 adjustments will be made; is that correct?

20 MR. MCRIGHT:

21 I'm sorry?

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 With the provisions that the adjustments
24 will be made by the next meeting?

25 MR. MCRIGHT:

1 Right.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 All right. It's been moved and seconded,
4 so the budget has been tabled for until the
5 next meeting, March meeting, date to be
6 determined.

7 Okay. Let's move on. Mr. Blache?

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 -- any executive reports for us?

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 I do. I've got a bunch of stuff for you
14 guys. In your packet, you have, well, first
15 on my list is the audit. This is something
16 we've talked about several times in the past.
17 I mentioned to you, I guess a year ago or so,
18 that when I got here, the first thing I did
19 was I looked at the last five audits before I
20 arrived to see what was going on there, but I
21 think this is a very important process that,
22 fortunately, the Legislative Auditor requires
23 every year that we go through.

24 Every several years, they do a full
25 audit, which is where they send a Legislative

1 Auditor staff member in, and they spend
2 basically about six months going through
3 everything. We had Mr. Odoms do that year
4 before last and we got some good
5 recommendations out of that audit. And it was
6 a very good audit.

7 The subsequent one, it was done in
8 three-year cycles by a contractor that they
9 hire. They notify us by telephone who they've
10 hired, and then we get to meet them when they
11 show up at the door. This company, J. Walker
12 & Company, last year, they did the review.
13 That review was exponentially better than the
14 ones in the prior years.

15 MS. FINCHUM:

16 Fabian, I'm sorry. Can I ask you a quick
17 question?

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Yes.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 What was the date of this?

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 This is --

24 MS. FINCHUM:

25 It's just not on here.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 Oh, yeah. Give me one second. It was --
3 I'll tell you in one second.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 No problem.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 I might have to ask --

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 October 22nd?

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 I might have to -- yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 It's on the last page.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Oh, it's on the last page?

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 Yeah.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 That's where it is. Okay.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 Oh, under his name.

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. It's weird.

24 MR. CROUCH:

25 Under the signature line.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 Okay. So -- thank you. So J. Walker &
3 Company have the audit again this year. They
4 sent a different individual who brings a
5 different experience with different boards and
6 commissions and a different perspective to it.
7 There were two recommendations primarily that
8 came out of it. One was that they want
9 someone whose not in the financial pipeline
10 for check writing approval or handling of
11 anything to also review bank statements in
12 addition to me.

13 So we've implemented a response. You
14 have the response document where we're going
15 to do that and we're going to assign someone
16 to do that task. It's just an additional
17 check and balance process. I think it's
18 smart. I did put some emphasis on --

19 MS. FINCHUM:

20 Can I ask a quick question? I'm sorry.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 Yes.

23 MS. FINCHUM:

24 The response that you've provided for us,
25 is that what they're referencing as Appendix

1 A?

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 Yes.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 Okay.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 Yes. So I did highlight some things
8 because we were really pleased with some of
9 the stuff that we saw. So, for example, Page
10 2 talks about ethics. They didn't note any
11 exceptions there. We were real clean there.

12 If you go to Page 4, you'll notice under
13 bank reconciliations, we confirmed that they
14 are done timely. This is the second time in a
15 row in the first time in eight years that
16 that's the case. And, you know, they were
17 pleased to see that.

18 They also mentioned that they were being
19 done in the right time frame. So not only are
20 they being done, which in many times past,
21 they weren't, they're being done in the right
22 time frame, which was something the
23 Legislative Auditor wanted to make sure that
24 was happening.

25 With respect to Board activity, they have

1 a paragraph in there about reviewing the
2 minutes and making sure that we're doing what
3 we're supposed to do as a Board in these
4 meetings. They had no exceptions there.

5 Under collections, they get into a
6 variety of different things with respect to
7 transactions and reconciliation of bank
8 accounts about the collection of money from
9 the industry that comes in. And, obviously,
10 most -- in the past, mostly, it was all checks
11 and money orders. And now, most of it is done
12 electronically, but they found no problems
13 with that. They looked at a variety of
14 different transactions.

15 They also looked at highest dollar weeks
16 as a litmus test to kind of get an average and
17 see what things look like there. There were
18 no exceptions there either.

19 So now, I'm on Page 5. They also looked
20 at renewals. This is where I want to stop and
21 make a comment about renewals. Just so you're
22 aware, remember, we used to take renewals 260
23 renewal days of the year. We've moved all the
24 guards, almost all the guards, to March 31st
25 expiration dates.

1 So going forward, our renewal revenue
2 will not be a static monthly income. Our
3 renewal revenue will come 30 to 60 days before
4 the deadline in March. So we'll see most of
5 our renewal revenue January to the end of
6 February; whereas, before, all the years
7 prior, we used to see it every single month.
8 So that's changed, because of moving to the
9 bi-mobile licensure cycle. So that's going to
10 reflect in future budget views as, oh, wait,
11 if you look back, '17, '16, '15, there was a
12 static number each monthly budget that showed
13 in the renewal income. That's all going to
14 flow in one more lump sum, you know, probably
15 been, like I said, January and February
16 because they're due 30 days in advance.

17 So I just wanted to point that out. But
18 they looked at that. They picked ten
19 different ones. They made sure that the fees
20 paid were appropriate, and that if there were
21 any penalties assessed, that they were
22 appropriate. And they found no exceptions
23 with any of those transactions.

24 Credit cards, debit cards, fuel cards, we
25 only have two individuals that have purchased

1 cards in the agency. They are people other
2 than myself. And then we have the fuel cards
3 for the vehicle, the fleet vehicle, and we
4 have an Office Depot account that we use for
5 office supplies and such. They looked at all
6 of those statements and saw that there were no
7 exceptions in the way that was being handled.
8 No problems there either.

9 They also looked at, from a transactional
10 standpoint, they looked at the purchasing and
11 disbursement policies, making sure that we're
12 adhering with Public Bid Law, things of that
13 nature. They found no exceptions there
14 either.

15 Travel expenditures, this is one of the
16 ones where a lot of agencies tend to get
17 tripped up, you know, especially the big ones.
18 We don't have that problem here. Thank
19 goodness. We do it right. We follow PPM49.
20 You know, the Board's expenditures are covered
21 in total, so they don't have to use the PPM49
22 model that we have to do. It kind of limits
23 us more and gives you a bit more broad
24 authority. Everything that we've submitted
25 and that we paid was in order and in proper

1 standing. So there were no exceptions there.

2 The next one is payroll and personnel.
3 They went through all of that with Mr. Dalton
4 and Sharon. They found no exceptions there
5 either.

6 Attendance and leave records, that was
7 good. Let's see, personnel files, they went
8 through that. They looked to make sure that
9 we're maintaining personnel files that the
10 documentation is proper; that we're current on
11 any employee related paperwork that has to do
12 with changes in position, et cetera. So that
13 was good too. Disbursements as well turned
14 out fine.

15 There was one concern that was a repeat
16 concern from last year. I mentioned last year
17 that this auditor, unlike the Legislative
18 Auditor, said that we were paying our IT
19 vendor in advance and that the Constitution of
20 the State of Louisiana doesn't allow you to
21 pay it in advance. You're supposed to pay it
22 on a net whatever, whether it's a five, 10,
23 30. But the rate that we get on the contract
24 is discounted based upon the fact that it's a
25 30-day in advance payment. So we submitted a

1 response to the auditor last year about that,
2 saying that if we started -- if we have to
3 rearrange the contract, the contract cost
4 would increase. They didn't seem to have an
5 issue with it, but it did show up again
6 because sometimes we're paying it after the
7 fact. And sometimes when the bill gets in,
8 Sharon is a bit manic about it, she just pays
9 it. So they just mentioned it again as
10 something that we need to be mindful of.

11 So we'll be talking with General
12 Informatics about trying to reconcile some
13 kind of way where we can issue the payment for
14 an invoice that is not an invoice in the
15 future. That's what we need to do with that.
16 Like I said, as they said, it's not a big deal
17 but it's a technicality and we need to --

18 MS. FINCHUM:

19 I have a question about that particular
20 issue.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 Sure.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Go ahead.

25 MS. FINCHUM:

1 Is -- that contract that we have with
2 them, is it a consistent monthly fee or is it
3 something that changes that they need to --

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 It is a consistent monthly fee because it
6 gives you a certain number of IT tech hours
7 every month. If you exceed those hours, even
8 of a special circumstance, then there could be
9 an additional charge, which we've always had
10 that when there's an inflow and outflow of an
11 employee. You just shut down the email
12 account and you get a new one.

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 So they're just billing us like a month
15 in advance --

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 They bill you a month in advance.

18 MS. FINCHUM:

19 -- basically what we're --

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 Right, and it's not anything tragic. But
22 from a technical standpoint based upon the way
23 the Constitution is written --

24 MS. FINCHUM:

25 Sure. Sure.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 -- it's a violation of sorts. It's a
3 finding.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Maybe because they're giving us a
6 discount, maybe we could offer up something
7 like instead of paying them in advance, that
8 we pay them in less time, 15 days.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 Right. Yeah, something --

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 We pay them within a 15-day period or --

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 -- where we're not --

15 MS. LANDRY:

16 And even upon receipt or...

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 Yeah.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Well, yeah. So, technically, if it's --

21 MS. FINCHUM:

22 I mean, we're under contract, so it's not
23 like they're not going to get --

24 MS. LANDRY:

25 Yeah.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 True.

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 -- what's coming to them.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 No, absolutely. And, but technically for
7 us to -- basically, the way the contract is
8 written, for us to do it, we have to wait
9 until we're 30 days late and then pay it,
10 which they wouldn't impose a fee. I don't
11 think they have. They have a fee.

12 MS. VALLERY:

13 They would, yeah.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 But, you know, so that's -- that's not
16 the cleanest way to fix it. So we're going to
17 look at possibly seeing if there's a work
18 around --

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 Pay upon receipt.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 Well, yeah. When Tech Norris had it, it
23 was easier because they were just a local
24 small company. Now, they've been bought by
25 this big conglomerate, and it makes things a

1 little more cumbersome. But I wanted to point
2 that out to you while I'm showing you all the
3 good stuff, you know. I wanted to make sure
4 you saw that. So, yeah, disbursements.

5 Budget, they detected no differences
6 between the budget information contained in
7 the database and what was adopted by the Board
8 for that fiscal. And that pretty much wraps
9 it up. So this is an incredible outcome. I
10 mean, this is exactly what we were pursuing
11 all along as opposed to having repeat audit
12 findings for low-hanging fruit in some of the
13 high level things. And this gives me a great
14 comfort level that the office is doing what
15 it's supposed to do.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 And I thank you, Mr. Blache, and your
18 staff for what you've done. Because in the
19 past, and I don't know if any of the Board
20 members have any historical knowledge of what
21 has happened in the past, but in the past, we
22 were blasted, this Board. And I wasn't a
23 member of this Board at that time, but this
24 Board was blasted on the audits because of not
25 complying --

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

4 -- with the regulations. No bank
5 reconciliations were done on a timely basis
6 and stuff like that.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 I don't know if any of you remember some
11 of that, but thank you, Mr. Blache.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 I know. I was determined to --

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 This looks a lot better than it has in
16 past.

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 That was too easy to get right with a
19 little effort. So we've changed some of our
20 internal controls, we wrote some
21 recommendations, we adhere to the
22 recommendations. We kind of tripped up on
23 that 30-day one that I just mentioned to you
24 because of a transition from the local company
25 to the big boy operation, but we'll work on

1 that. But I'm really, really pleased about
2 it.

3 So that's three years running. Every
4 year has been better than the last. And the
5 first one was great. So we're doing real well
6 on that.

7 MS. FINCHUM:

8 Have we received any other bids from any
9 other IT companies since that's been bought
10 out?

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 We've talked about pursuing that, and you
13 may remember this. Remember when I mentioned
14 when we were getting ready to go to ImageTrend
15 I said, at some point, our Legacy system,
16 we're going to export it to an Excel database
17 searchable and just shut that server down.
18 The biggest cost in that is the maintenance of
19 that server.

20 So once we get to the point where we're
21 comfortable that everything industry wide,
22 statewide is flowing through ImageTrend in the
23 cloud with our Minneapolis-based operation,
24 we're going to pursue shutting down the
25 server. That will immediately reduce the cost

1 of that contract. But then, at that time, I
2 think would be the appropriate time to put it
3 out to rebid. Because, at that point, all
4 we're maintaining is office 365 accounts on
5 desktops and we're not having to do server
6 backups and all that kind of stuff. So I
7 think that would be the appropriate time to do
8 it.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 But even though it's --

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 I just don't think we're there yet.

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 Even though it's in the cloud, sometimes
15 server backups are good.

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 Yeah. Well, see -- no, I'm with you.
18 No, the ImageTrend system is backed up on
19 dozens of servers out of state for disaster
20 recovery purposes, so we can always recover
21 that. But this, the game plan, according to
22 the IT people that we've talked to, Tech
23 Norris, then their consultants at General
24 Informatics and some other folks is, once
25 you're done with that system, export it to a

1 searchable database, put it on a shared drive,
2 back that up, shut the server down, and take
3 half that expense out of the contract.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Right.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 And that's the goal.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 Because we presently use a server, and so
10 we're looking at some of the same things
11 because we use our server as a backup away
12 from the City of New Orleans, the State of
13 Louisiana as a backup in other places, but we
14 find it very useful when something happens
15 that we have those backups and our server
16 being backed up. So, I meant, those are
17 things we have to look at and see what the
18 best move is for the --

19 MS. FINCHUM:

20 When does our current contract end with
21 that particular tech company?

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 It's every fiscal year is the contract.
24 It's a fiscal contract, so July (sic).

25 MS. FINCHUM:

1 So we just need to keep an open mind
2 that --

3 MS. VALLERY:

4 June.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 June.

7 MS. FINCHUM:

8 -- if for some reason they'll only accept
9 us to pay it the way it is now --

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 Yeah.

12 MS. FINCHUM:

13 -- I mean, we'll have to put that out for
14 bid just because we have to do that to keep it
15 in line with the --

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 No, I've gotten no objection to that.
18 We've already gotten rid of Michael Morgan's
19 contract now that we've gone to ImageTrend.
20 That was a pretty hefty one. It was about the
21 same as the tech -- I keep saying Tech
22 Norris -- the General Informatics one, because
23 we don't need him to build anything for us in
24 that system anymore.

25 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 Right.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 So, you know, we had a weaning plan for
4 this all along. We're just tracking that
5 direction right now.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 Okay.

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 The roof, we did replace the roof on this
10 building. I don't know if you remember, you
11 used to see lots and lots and lots of leaks
12 and things here. The roof over the last 15
13 years has been repaired once. That didn't
14 hold very well. It was time, so we got that
15 done. We put that -- we contacted the
16 Procurement Office before we did anything,
17 talked with them. They took it through their
18 entire process, bounced it back to us because
19 it was under \$150,000. It was actually
20 significantly under that. It was about 67 or
21 so?

22 MS. VALLERY:

23 Sixty-seven.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 We got the bids we needed. They reviewed

1 everything. We got the roof taken care of.
2 This is a 25-year roof. It lasts -- should
3 last us longer than the one we had. It's
4 actually -- the materials, we found out when
5 we took the roof off, were RV materials, not
6 roofing materials. And the coating was also
7 an RV type coating, not an industrial coating.
8 So what we have now has an overhang so that
9 water is not running down on the windows.

10 You may not know this, and I learned this
11 in the process, those windows were supposed to
12 be recessed nine inches, not flush, and that
13 would have allowed the water to run off and
14 not pool on the windows. So since the flood,
15 that has cracked in the corner of that one and
16 some other areas because of the way the
17 windows are positioned.

18 So what they did when they put the new
19 roof on is they gave us a bit of an overhang
20 to push that water farther out. So we got all
21 that done. They got it done in four days, I
22 believe it was. We gave them a holiday
23 weekend. They knocked it out without too much
24 disruption to the staff and the office. So I
25 was real pleased that we were able to get that

1 taken care of and now we can move forward
2 without having ceiling tiles falling down on
3 people's desks anymore.

4 MS. LANDRY:

5 Was that done recently?

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 It was done -- when was it?

8 MS. VALLERY:

9 February, it was done. We paid for it in
10 October.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 October.

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 Yeah.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 All right. IASIR, you have a press
17 release in your kit just letting you know that
18 I attended the IASIR conference in Scottsdale.
19 It was an amazing conference. You know, we
20 have people from regulation and industry that
21 come from the alarm monitoring and
22 installation businesses, from the PI firms,
23 and from security. And they get together to
24 do exactly what we do in this boardroom, talk
25 about things from the industry side and from

1 the regulatory side and identify problems and
2 concerns and errors of opportunity.

3 We had a really interesting presentation
4 from a man who runs an organization called
5 FARB, which is the Federation of Associations
6 of Regulatory Boards. Turns out, he's an
7 attorney whose had this organization for quite
8 a number of years. I think they were formed
9 in 1974. And their sole purpose is to educate
10 licensure people and companies and regulators
11 on how the regulations in your state are
12 supposed to work. They identify
13 misapplication of regulation, overregulation,
14 things of that nature. That was kind of like
15 the highlight of that event.

16 But the big outgrowth of that event was
17 that there is a serious concern in the
18 security industry about cannabis security
19 because that's taken root all over the place,
20 right -- that's funny, I didn't mean to do
21 that -- taken root all over the place right
22 now. And because of the intricacies with the
23 way it works, there's a conflict right now
24 because many banks because of federal law
25 can't even take money. So a lot of these are

1 cash operations; because until they change the
2 federal laws allowing the banks to take the
3 money, they can't -- you know, they have to
4 basically do this as a cash business. So
5 you've got concerns with transporting cash and
6 then you have concerns with transporting the
7 actual materials themselves. It requires a
8 lead car and a trail car.

9 It's a great opportunity for security
10 companies is the bottom line because it's a
11 pricier product and it involves a lot more
12 bodies and in vehicles and things of that
13 nature. Louisiana is just kind of getting
14 into this. Many other states are just now
15 getting into this. On the other hand, there
16 are many states that have been doing this for
17 a little while. So our next conference is
18 projected to be in Canada potentially. They
19 have a pretty hefty cannabis culture there,
20 and --

21 MS. LANDRY:

22 Is that FARB or IASIR?

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 IASIR.

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 Okay.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 And FARB will be there. FARB will be
4 there.

5 MS. LANDRY:

6 Okay.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 And what we're going to do is have a
9 primary focus on this issue, so that while we
10 start rewriting the statutes, Ron and I in
11 January, we can start implementing some stuff
12 around that and the other things we're
13 missing; drones, robots, canines --

14 MR. ROBINSON:

15 All that.

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 -- all that stuff.

18 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

19 I find that along that line is that we're
20 already getting questions as it relates to
21 that in our industry. I don't know if anybody
22 else has had anybody to come to them saying
23 that people from other states and stuff that
24 they're transferring to this state, they're
25 becoming guards and they're guards, and that

1 they have been given a prescription to use
2 marijuana as a health issue. So we're going
3 to be faced with that and how we handle that
4 in this industry is going to be interesting,
5 because you're going to have people who have
6 prescriptions from doctors that will allow
7 them to use. And how we regulate that is
8 going to be very, very difficult. It's going
9 to be like walking a fine line because of
10 that.

11 MR. CROUCH:

12 It's a very difficult legal issue.

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 It is. It's a very difficult legal
15 issue. I've already been faced with it. We
16 have one person that can't -- that is waiting
17 for Louisiana to hit the green light so he can
18 start using it for his seizures. So it's
19 going to be interesting.

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 Well, thank -- I thank you for those
22 comments because this is going -- it really is
23 going to be interesting. I mean, this is
24 something we've got to get right the first
25 time. And there's good examples out there.

1 There's some bad examples out there. But what
2 I want to make sure of is that whatever we do
3 implement that it doesn't make it prohibitive
4 or cumbersome and that it's clear and it's
5 easy to stay in compliance with. That's the
6 real goal with what we're going to do it.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 Our big concern too, Fabian, I don't know
9 if anybody has been talking to the insurance
10 industry, because as it relates to security,
11 they have real concerns about how they're
12 going to deal with it with insurance for
13 security companies --

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Uh-huh.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 -- that when they have people who are
18 actually prescribed to use this. So in
19 talking with some of the people on the Board
20 in the insurance industry, they have great
21 concerns about how they'll regulate this as it
22 relates to providing us with security -- I
23 meant with insurance for our security.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 Yeah. No question.

1 I'm going to move to the NOLA Commission.

2 MR. CROUCH:

3 Wait.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Yes. Go right ahead.

6 MR. CROUCH:

7 Perhaps I'm just too easily impressed --

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 Oh, I'm sorry.

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 -- but he was elected, Fabian was

12 elected --

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 Right.

15 MR. CROUCH:

16 -- President of this International

17 Organization.

18 MR. ROBINSON:

19 I was getting ready to say that.

20 MR. CROUCH:

21 And I felt like it was important enough,

22 so I passed this onto my Colonel because I

23 wanted Colonel Reeves to know that we have

24 somebody in the department that was President

25 of the International Organization.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 And I want to take this opportunity from
3 this Board to congratulate you, Mr. Fabian --

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 -- on your new election. And I'm sure
8 you'll do a wonderful job in representing us
9 on this Board.

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 We're going to -- we're going to do our
12 best. We've got two years to make an impact,
13 so we're going to do our best.

14 MR. ROBINSON:

15 You've made an impact already.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 And I'm sure that's why you were elected.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 We just got South Africa to join --

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Great.

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 -- as another organization. So we have
24 the UAE, South Africa, France, I can't think
25 of all the other international partners.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Well, when you come back and start saying
3 oui oui, we'll know that you --

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Thank you. Thank you. I appreciate that,
6 guys. I wasn't going to get into that, but...

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 You're welcome.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 Do you have any more --

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 Yes. Yes, I have two things I want to
15 discuss.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 Okay.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 The NOLA Commission, so Ms. Pierre and I
20 met with a City Councilman, I think his name
21 is Giarrusso --

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 Yes.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 Okay. I wanted to make sure I said that

1 correct -- to have a conversation about New
2 Orleans Commission cards, which is a big
3 issue, and I wanted to let you know that I've
4 been passionate about for taking up for quite
5 some time. The long and short of the
6 discussion without getting too detailed is
7 Ms. Pierre presented her position on it to him
8 as a constituent and as an industry person. I
9 presented my position on it as the leader of
10 the agency whose law has supremacy. And he
11 agreed with us.

12 He said that the law does not say that
13 the superintendent must issue a commission
14 card; that it's not intended for him to issue
15 a commission card in those instances; and that
16 he prefer the language to say that only in an
17 exigent circumstance, such as a disaster
18 declaration where the New Orleans Police
19 Department needs direction and control over
20 additional personnel to maintain order and
21 lawfulness would the superintendent be allowed
22 to issue the Special Officers Commission.

23 The first thing I asked him was if he was
24 an attorney, and he said he wasn't. And I was
25 like, good, because I'm not. So you can help

1 we with this, but I'm going to sell it to you
2 the way I understand it. He absolutely agrees
3 that New Orleans is on the hook if a guard who
4 holds a card does something that is above the
5 level of a private citizen. I said it, he
6 agreed with it right off the top.

7 So he -- so my statement to you is
8 correct, you have two guards, one has a card,
9 one doesn't. The guard without the card does
10 something that a law enforcement would do,
11 that would be a problem. Your insurance is on
12 the hook to address that problem. The guard
13 who has the card has the effect of a law
14 enforcement officer without all the training
15 that the consent decree is requiring of New
16 Orleans police officers. New Orleans is on
17 the hook for that and any lawsuits that grow
18 out from that.

19 They don't want that. And he doesn't see
20 from his position how the NOPD could even
21 threaten to enforce it because there's nothing
22 they have a leg to stand on, which is what I
23 said before. So the next step towards killing
24 this once and for all is to meet with the
25 leader of Judiciary Committee, which is?

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Jason Williams.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 His name is what?

5 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

6 Councilman Williams. Jason Williams.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 Yeah. That meeting is forthcoming. I
9 have every reason to believe that he will
10 understand my position. But let me state my
11 position to you as the Board members what I
12 say the agency's position is. My position is
13 our law has supremacy, and in fact, it does,
14 Councilman said so, and they don't have any
15 authority to impose a further regulation on
16 top of what we already require; what I've said
17 all along, and he agrees with that.

18 So this is the same thing I'm going to
19 present to the next gentleman in the hopes of
20 getting them all to agree and understand that
21 the idea that a guard in New Orleans must go
22 to the Special Officers Commission to get a
23 yellow card is absurd and cannot be enforced.
24 That will be a huge time and financial boom to
25 the industry folks that work in the City of

1 New Orleans.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Which is one that I've been trying to get
4 approved for the last 15 years. And so now,
5 we have two members of that Committee that are
6 attorneys that do understand that. I have
7 spoken to Councilman Williams and he agrees
8 with Councilman Giarrusso, that this is a
9 matter that should be handled and that it
10 should not be -- that Special Officers permits
11 should not be issued to an officer unless he
12 is a special officer assigned to the New
13 Orleans Police Department. And people in New
14 Orleans, those of you who have companies in
15 New Orleans, you understand exactly what I'm
16 speaking of because you know that they do have
17 special officers who help the New Orleans
18 Police Department and they are deputized to do
19 so.

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 And they don't enforce it across the
22 board, which is another problem that they face
23 --

24 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

25 Yeah.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 -- because it's not enforced across the
3 board; not that it's enforceable to begin
4 with, but they're trying to make the case and
5 they're doing a poor job of it. The other
6 thing that we made a point of in that process,
7 I'm just thinking of one more thing that
8 relates to that.

9 MS. FINCHUM:

10 I just have a quick question --

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Yes.

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 -- because I'm not familiar with what
15 you're referencing. So the cards that they're
16 issuing --

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 So --

19 MR. ROBINSON:

20 Yellow cards.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 So, yeah. Only in Orleans Parish, they
23 have a city ordinance that says -- so they
24 have a division, it's called the Special
25 Officers Commission.

1 MS. FINCHUM:

2 Uh-huh.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 And what they have done for a long, long
5 time --

6 MR. ROBINSON:

7 Years.

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 -- is they have said, if you are going to
10 have -- they focus on the ones with the
11 weapons, but it doesn't say anything about
12 armed in the statute.

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 Sure.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 But if you're going to be armed as a
17 guard in the City of New Orleans, you can't do
18 it unless the NOPD gives you a Special
19 Officers Commission. It's a yellow piece of
20 paper.

21 MS. FINCHUM:

22 So all of you guys who have businesses in
23 New Orleans, your guards have to have that?

24 MR. ROBINSON:

25 Yeah.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 And it's \$50.

3 MR. ROBINSON:

4 If they're armed, yeah.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 And they have to -- and they're enforcing
7 them to go through another background check
8 after we've already done a background check.
9 Then, they're imposing this \$50 fee, and then
10 you wind up with a company on Canal Street
11 that's got ten guards, but only three have the
12 card --

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 That's correct.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 -- or four have the card. The ones that
17 have the card literally have the authority of
18 a law enforcement officer.

19 MR. CROUCH:

20 And no additional training.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 No additional training at all. Yeah,
23 it's insane.

24 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

25 There's no oversight. That's my

1 position. There is no oversight. You have
2 some companies that will follow the law and
3 some who do not.

4 MS. FINCHUM:

5 Sure.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 So there's no oversight. There's no
8 penalties enforcement. There's no enforcement
9 for any penalties as it relates to that. No
10 judge will accept any penalties that the New
11 Orleans Police Department --

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 -- imposes on a company because they
16 didn't have it if a police officer goes out to
17 the site. So what's the point? If they want
18 \$50, just ask for \$50. Don't try to make it
19 part of the law, a requirement, when you don't
20 enforce the requirement.

21 MS. FINCHUM:

22 Right.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 And no judge will support it in New
25 Orleans. So that's where we are with that.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 And the thing -- and one of the pre-reqs
3 for getting the card is that they have to
4 verify that they're already registered with us
5 in the first place.

6 MR. ROBINSON:

7 Right.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 Yes.

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 So it's an infinite loop of
12 overregulation is what it boils down to. It's
13 what FARB exist to teach about. That's what
14 they talk about. So that's a textbook case.
15 It came up in Scottsdale, in fact.

16 MR. ROBINSON:

17 Sure did.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 That's a textbook case of what shouldn't
20 happen and it's an overreach. And, honestly,
21 if they were impacting all 6,000 guards in New
22 Orleans, maybe they were making some money.
23 But the truth is I don't think they're
24 probably hitting 30 percent of them. And
25 that's a problem.

1 So we're trying to get it addressed once
2 and for all and get that off the table and
3 make it what it was intended to be. It's very
4 clear in the language and the statute what it
5 was for. It's so that NOPD can say, okay, you
6 five are coming with us and you're going to
7 watch this building.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 That's right.

10 MR. BLACHE:

11 And now, they're under their direction
12 and control. And if anybody goes in there --

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 And they're supervised.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 That was the intent.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 If anybody, detain them and cuff them.
21 Well, now, that's a different ballgame.

22 (MULTIPLE SPEAKERS SPEAKING)

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 Now, that's not security anymore. That's
25 policing.

1 MR. ROBINSON:

2 Home Rule Charter.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 Right.

5 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

6 That was the intent.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 Right.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 But it was never carried out.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Right. Oh, I know what I wanted to
13 mention. I didn't go in there without my guns
14 loaded. I had already contacted the
15 Commission, asked them to broach the subject
16 with the City attorney to see if they would be
17 amenable to amending the law to insist,
18 knowing that they wouldn't, but to insist to
19 change the language from the superintendent
20 shall issue. And the City attorney said, we
21 will not do that; don't want to take away the
22 discretionary aspect of it; that's not what
23 this is for. So if the City attorney gets it,
24 you know, only concern, industry concern is,
25 well, my guards are being told by the police

1 or by somebody, if you don't have this,
2 they're going to lock you up.

3 MR. ROBINSON:

4 Right.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 Well, that's one we're just going to have
7 to test and fight at this point because I
8 don't see it happening.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 And once again, our mayor is in concert
11 with this. She understands from her legal
12 department that it's not something that the
13 City wants to get involved in --

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Yeah.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 -- and be liable for.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Yeah. The potential 150,000 to \$200,000
20 that they're making off of this --

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 Is not worth the liability.

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 -- is not worth the one time, the one
25 time that it makes headline news that a guard

1 did something, involves a weapon, and they're
2 sued for it. Because they're going to spend
3 that tenfold just fighting the lawsuit.

4 MR. CROUCH:

5 It's a plaintiff lawyer's festival life.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 Yeah, it's bad. It's bad.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 But we're going to keep you guys posted
10 on it.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Certainly.

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 We're going to be meeting with Councilman
15 Williams, so I'm sure we'll have more news to
16 come back to you and tell you about it. And
17 some of you that are in New Orleans will see
18 this as a welcome relief.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 So my last part of this update is
21 ImageTrend to kind of give you a feel for
22 where we are. You know, we've talked in March
23 before we implemented May 28th or so, and then
24 we implemented May 28th. We'll call it June
25 1st for argument's sake. So all along, I've

1 been preaching this notion to you guys based
2 upon my inspections that we were at 40 percent
3 compliance. And I said I know that, because
4 every time I check ten guards, four have
5 cards; every time I check 20, you know, and so
6 on. And I said that going to ImageTrend and
7 forcing people down the pipeline to do it
8 online is going to really reveal how many
9 guards we actually have working for the
10 industry. Well, it sure has.

11 On May 28th when we went live, there were
12 9,864 registered guards in the Legacy system.
13 That was pretty consist over the last couple
14 of years. It was always 9,000 and change with
15 X number anywhere from 800 to 3,000 in some
16 sort of pending status. But we knew they were
17 working, so we would kind of try to count them
18 in where we could. So you're basically
19 talking anywhere from 10 to 11, five,
20 somewhere in that general vicinity.

21 So we turn ImageTrend on, we'll call it
22 June 1st. As of today, and I'm -- this number
23 is not 100 percent solid, but it's as close as
24 what I remember from this moment, we have
25 almost 17,000 guards in the system.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 That sounds about right.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 Seventeen thousand. That's an increase
5 of almost 69 percent in six months. That's
6 all the people who were working for companies
7 that were not submitting blue applications
8 that can now not do that because they have to
9 app through the system. So we were spot on
10 with our suspicions about that.

11 And I had said to the staff that I
12 thought we'd get to 18,000 by year's end in
13 June, and we're probably not going to hit
14 that, but we'll be a thousand off, not too
15 shabby. And it's still ticking upward. It
16 slowed some because we had a big influx in
17 June, July, August. But still, every week,
18 we're having more and more and more people
19 develop profiles.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 And what we uncovered, just as a caveat
22 to what Fabian is saying, what we uncovered is
23 that for many years, I guess eight to ten
24 years, that you had guard companies operating,
25 having doing the -- doing a 1099 for employees

1 for over a ten-year period; that their guards
2 were never registered with the State Board.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 Yeah. The U.S. Federal WHO Office is
5 actually investigating two security guard
6 companies right now. I know, because they
7 called me to ask me a question about it. The
8 Wage-an-Hour Division is investigating two
9 companies right now. One is based on a
10 complaint about 1099s. And the other one is
11 based upon an unrelated type of complaint
12 related to wages. But I don't know if this is
13 true, but the agent involved in doing these
14 audits said that there is an initiative
15 underway to investigate all PI and security
16 companies or a vast majority of them to see if
17 they're compliant with Federal wage standards.
18 Again, only two right now; one is wrapping up
19 and we'll know what the outcome of that is in
20 the near future.

21 Some other things on ImageTrend, we have
22 almost 5,000 training classes that were
23 created since June in the system training tens
24 of thousands of people. So now, we're finally
25 getting real numbers on how many people are

1 actually getting trained. That's pretty
2 impressive.

3 We also now have a mechanism that's being
4 developed to let us know from the hire date
5 when a person hasn't been trained. It can
6 actually tell us so we can do something from a
7 compliance perspective on training; something
8 we didn't have in the other system. It
9 wouldn't, you know, spit out something that
10 told us. It was an ad hoc style deal. This
11 is going to be more automated.

12 MS. FINCHUM:

13 I have a quick question.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Yes.

16 MS. FINCHUM:

17 Going back to the number of guards --

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Sure.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 -- based off of 2018 numbers versus
22 today, that's almost doubled the amount of
23 guards. So we should also see that revenue go
24 up to almost double --

25 MR. BLACHE:

1 Once --

2 MS. FINCHUM:

3 -- while that starts renewing.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Yeah. As they all begin to app and
6 actually pay for them, we should see that.

7 MS. FINCHUM:

8 Uh-huh.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 We've got a thousand sitting in the queue
11 right now pending affiliation that the
12 companies that they applied to or said they
13 were going to work with haven't --

14 MS. FINCHUM:

15 Haven't responded.

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 -- haven't done anything with the apps.
18 And some of those, we've already found out,
19 were working those people and not processing
20 the application in the same manner they were
21 not processing the paper applications. So
22 we've got some reporting design, and
23 mechanisms and work that we're going to do to
24 help us drive what we're now capturing so that
25 we can stay on top of it from a compliance

1 perspective.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 And we have to consider the smaller
4 companies. The smaller companies, it is a --
5 and the mom and pop shops that have very few
6 people working for them, that they have to get
7 up to speed to what we're doing here --

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 Yeah, we've had a few stragglers.

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 -- and giving them some ability to --

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 We do. We've had some stragglers. We've
14 got a company that has five guards.

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Yeah.

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 They just started getting involved in
19 getting it done, even though they've gotten
20 the notifications and had the opportunity to
21 come to the trainings, et cetera.

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 Uh-huh.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 But this just gives us such a good

1 overview of what's really going on. So we
2 have, in our queue, we have different things.
3 We have initiated apps, we probably have 500,
4 I don't know, initiated applications. We have
5 pending affiliation. That means the app was
6 done by the guard, but not picked up by the
7 company, we have almost a thousand of those.
8 We have some that are pending payment, we have
9 hundreds of those. So I'm focused more so on
10 just right now just the number of guards that
11 are -- these are people that are hitting the
12 site, creating a profile, and starting
13 activity in the system, either training and/or
14 applications.

15 And it's just vastly different, and we
16 knew it would be. So over time, again, we're
17 still new, we've got to get some age under
18 this system now and start to be able to
19 develop some trends out of it and figure out
20 what's really going on.

21 MR. ROBINSON:

22 So you --

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 I have --

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 I --

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Everybody just be silent.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 No. No. No.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 So I'm going to jump into this. Okay.

8 So let me ask -- the question I have is that,

9 I know we've talked about this before about

10 having, the companies having the ability to go

11 in and terminate a guard --

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 Uh-huh.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 -- instead of waiting for you guys to

16 send it in to you guys and ask you guys to

17 terminate this guard --

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Uh-huh.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 -- so we can do it in a timely manner.

22 Are we looking at any idea of when that can

23 happen?

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 Yeah. I have a document that will do

1 that job. I'm trying to get it to work in
2 tandem with a reinstatement process. Because
3 one of the problems we run into is we've got
4 companies that term people very quickly and
5 reinstate them just as quickly. So we want to
6 have both mechanisms in place, so that when
7 you do it, the concept is, you will literally
8 pull up a simple form, type the guard's name,
9 it will verify by age and date of birth and
10 social, you can indicate the reason for term,
11 submit it, it pulls them off your guard list
12 and records the termination date.

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 But you know what that game is about.

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 But if you have to reinstate -- yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 You know what that game is about.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 When they get close to the time when they
23 haven't trained them --

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 Right. That's correct.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 -- they would go and terminate them --

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 That's exactly right.

5 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

6 -- and then rehire them --

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 And so --

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 -- and to avoid fines.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 -- the reason I haven't made that
13 document public and put it in play yet is
14 because I'm trying to make sure I catch all
15 those loopholes, so that if someone is doing
16 that, throttling that, we know it. That's --
17 but I do have a term for it. It functions.

18 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

19 Okay.

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 I just want to make sure it works in
22 conjunction with the reinstatement and that
23 it's watching the training, it does a training
24 validation. And that's logic that has to be
25 built that I have to do, and it's time

1 consuming and tricky.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 And so, but it's -- it's coming?

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Yes. I could pull up a system right now
6 and actually show you the term form and
7 execute it and show you how it pulls the guard
8 off the list. I can show you that now if you
9 wanted to see it. That form is done. But the
10 tie-in to catch all these games that are
11 played --

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Yeah.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 -- that's the part that takes a little
16 longer.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 And that's the part we need.

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 Yeah.

21 MS. LANDRY:

22 I have a question or concern --

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 Sure.

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 -- with the March 31st renewal date for
2 all guards across the board?

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 That's -- yeah. So every two years --

5 MS. LANDRY:

6 Every two years?

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 Right. That's --

9 MS. LANDRY:

10 And it's going to be March 31st.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Uh-huh.

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 Just that as far as the Board is
15 concerned, we're not having a flow of funds.
16 Everything is coming in at one time. And then
17 from the company standpoint, I see it as a
18 financial burden on the company, especially
19 companies that have several hundred guards --

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 Uh-huh. Okay.

22 MS. LANDRY:

23 -- even smaller companies, because most
24 of the companies put out the money for the
25 security guards and then maybe take it out of

1 their check and out of so many paychecks.

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 Uh-huh.

4 MS. LANDRY:

5 But yet, that company has to take in and
6 funnel a huge amount of money to the State
7 Board at one time.

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 So we're talking about renewals. That's
10 the only impact, it's on the renewal side, not
11 on the initials and all the others.

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 Uh-huh.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 And this is something we've -- I mean,
16 we -- we've talked about this for a long time
17 and didn't implement without discussion and
18 approval. I kind of see your point. It's
19 done this way in a lot of industries that have
20 a large number of licensees. It's done in
21 Louisiana in other industries that have a
22 large number of licensees. They use a static
23 expiration date to simplify the internal work
24 that goes into having to track 260 expiration
25 dates a year, and so it simplifies that.

1 And that's why I said we would open up,
2 and we did, we opened up the renewal app to
3 the guards months in advance. So a guard can
4 actually renew three months in advance and
5 still get his new card with his new expiration
6 date for the two years that he would expire
7 from March 31st to make it easier and simplify
8 the process.

9 MS. LANDRY:

10 But we both know that does not happen.
11 Yeah, we both know that doesn't happen.
12 Usually, we have to chase the guards down to
13 renew their license.

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Uh-huh.

16 MS. LANDRY:

17 And, usually, it is at the final hour.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 Uh-huh.

20 MS. LANDRY:

21 And a lot of times, I don't know about
22 you all, I mean, my compliance officer is
23 sitting in the room, so I don't know what she
24 could tell you. But a lot of the times, the
25 branch managers are chasing down the guards to

1 renew their applications.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 And -- and I understand that because that
4 happens to industry.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 Uh-huh.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 But if we don't start moving towards the
9 responsibility of the person who is licensed,
10 that they have some responsibility for what
11 we're doing, this is never going to change.
12 We'll always be chasing them down. But if
13 they understand that this is their livelihood,
14 this is their license like any other industry,
15 attorneys or doctors, they know that they have
16 to renew, they know that it cost money to
17 renew, they know that if they want to continue
18 to work, they have to renew, put the onus on
19 them. In Texas, that's the way it is also.

20 MS. LANDRY:

21 I understand that. But the onus really
22 isn't on them because it's the companies that
23 are fined. It's not the security officer that
24 is fined.

25 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 Well, once --

2 MR. RIVERS:

3 We're dealing --

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Once -- go ahead, Ritchie.

6 MR. RIVERS:

7 We're dealing with a lot different
8 caliber person as a nurse or a doctor. We're
9 dealing with --

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 But how do you change it if we don't
12 start somewhere?

13 MR. RIVERS:

14 -- 8-, 9-, 10-, \$12-an-hour guard who
15 will just go work at Burger King --

16 MR. BLACHE:

17 Uh-huh.

18 MR. RIVERS:

19 -- and not worry about it. I agree,
20 we -- it's our -- it's their responsibility,
21 but it falls on us as companies.

22 MS. LANDRY:

23 If falls on us.

24 MR. RIVERS:

25 And we --

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 But they're also fined.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 Yeah.

5 MR. RIVERS:

6 But they won't pay it.

7 MS. LANDRY:

8 They -- in this state. I don't think

9 they can pay a fine.

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 Well, one of my guards were fined \$500,

12 and she paid it.

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 Fined for what?

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 She was fined for not doing what --

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 There was a fine on the renewal because

19 it was late --

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 A fine on her renewal.

22 MS. LANDRY:

23 Mine wouldn't.

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 -- and the guard checked out and paid it.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 So my --

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 But the actual charge was to the company;
5 correct?

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 Yeah. The fine goes -- the fine is in
8 the rule -- let's see. In the rule, the fine
9 is to the company.

10 MS. FINCHUM:

11 Right.

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 The guards have the opportunity to pay
14 for their renewals, their blue apps. They
15 have the option to do so. And in this
16 particular case, this individual cleared it
17 out and we issued it and then later learned
18 that there was a fine on the application.

19 MS. LANDRY:

20 But the way I understand something with a
21 State law or statute, and I don't -- I
22 couldn't even tell you where it is, but if a
23 company is fined, if it's the company that's
24 fined, that company can have that employee pay
25 the company fine. Even if it was the

1 employee's responsibility to get it renewed,
2 that company can't --

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 That's correct.

5 MS. LANDRY:

6 Okay.

7 MR. BLACHE:

8 Yeah, that's correct. Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 She paid the fine.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 Yeah, that was --

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 But I'm just saying --

15 MR. BLACHE:

16 She was -- this individual went in, one
17 case of it, but this is one person that went
18 in and did that.

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 But it --

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 To get it done in a timely fashion, she
23 was focused on not having it expire. I think
24 it was a couple of days of expiration date --

25 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 But here's --

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 -- which is why it was late.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 But here's my issue with it is that when
6 we started talking about ImageTrend, we talked
7 about everybody going to moving over to one
8 date, one month. And we talked about it being
9 March when we started talking about
10 ImageTrend. And we said that it's going to be
11 easier for companies to remember when the
12 renewals were, for guards to know when they
13 needed to renew by moving everybody to that
14 March date. I don't know if everybody
15 remembers that discussion, but we had it more
16 than one time. And I'm sure we can go back to
17 the minutes and look at it. And we all agreed
18 that ImageTrend was the best thing in the
19 world; that the moving to March was not going
20 to be an issue for anybody, and we talked to
21 this into nauseam about that; how it would
22 work, samples of what would happen. We saw it
23 on the board. They showed it to us, and we
24 all agreed to it.

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 I didn't --

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 So now, we're into ImageTrend. We've
4 moving everybody -- we've started to move
5 everybody over with a number of hours spent
6 doing that to March. And now, we're back
7 talking about the impact?

8 MS. LANDRY:

9 Well, and then it's contradictory to the
10 statute and the rules and regulations, and
11 then that's going to have to be changed
12 because --

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 Absolutely.

15 MS. LANDRY:

16 But we're doing this before the rules and
17 regulations are being changed in the statute.
18 The guard's license expires two years after
19 their date of hire. And their date of hire is
20 the date that they begin work.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 But --

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 Yeah, but remember -- so let me give you
25 an example. I'm a guard and I come into the

1 industry for the first time on July 4th, blue
2 app.

3 MS. LANDRY:

4 Uh-huh.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 They're getting a card that actually
7 expires two years and six months later in that
8 instance because we do it three years in
9 advance from July 1st to December 31st for a
10 new app and we do it two years from January
11 1st to June 1st --

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 But that's not --

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 -- to put them on the cycle.

16 MS. LANDRY:

17 -- what the rules and regulations say and
18 the statute says. I understand we're giving
19 the guard six months more, but it goes against
20 the rules and regulations in the statute. And
21 if we're to follow the law --

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 Well, let me -- I'm with you and I follow
24 what you're saying. And to say this, that can
25 be changed. Let me just make that clear. We

1 could change the logic in the system to say,
2 use the hire date -- use the issue date or the
3 hire date, whatever. We could do any date.
4 We could tell it to do it 24 months from
5 whatever. It can do that.

6 Our intent and design was to make it
7 easier for companies to know when people are
8 expiring and to give them full-time access to
9 their list so they can see the expiration
10 dates, which takes care of the notification
11 issue because you can see all your 2020s, all
12 your 2019s, all your 2021s, et cetera to
13 simplify that. The reaction from the industry
14 to that has been quite favorable. They love
15 it. Allied did 82 renewals yesterday --

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 But it --

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 -- and had no -- you know --

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Fabian, it seems to me that if I know
22 that it's going to be a March date or whatever
23 the date is going to be, and I hire a guard,
24 you can -- I meant, it simplifies it for them.
25 Because if you as a company are going to pay

1 for their licensing, if that's your choice --

2 MS. LANDRY:

3 No. No.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Wait. Wait. Let me --

6 MS. LANDRY:

7 This is not my argument though.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 Let me finish, Maria.

10 MS. LANDRY:

11 Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Okay. And so that you can start to
14 deduct for that licensing over a period of
15 time, because that's what you're going to do
16 anyway. At some point, you're going to deduct
17 for you paying for their license; is that not
18 correct?

19 MS. LANDRY:

20 We are, but that's not my argument.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 Uh-huh.

23 MS. LANDRY:

24 My argument -- that's fine.

25 MR. BLACHE:

1 Uh-huh.

2 MS. LANDRY:

3 And I did mention the financial burden,
4 but I'm going by what the rules and
5 regulations in the statute says.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

9 Well, let me ask you something. This is
10 what -- these are the kinds of things we're
11 talking about with your committee about the
12 rules and regulations about coming up with it,
13 knowing that we were going to ImageTrend,
14 talking about changing some of the rules and
15 regulations as it relates to what we're moving
16 forward to do. Now, I don't know if we've
17 ever finished the report on that or where you
18 guys are with that.

19 MS. LANDRY:

20 We met, but it wasn't on that. We met on
21 policies and procedures --

22 MR. BLACHE:

23 Yeah. Yeah.

24 MS. LANDRY:

25 -- for office staff.

1 MR. BLACHE:

2 Right. Right.

3 MS. LANDRY:

4 That's what we met on, policies and
5 procedures for office staff.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 So was that ever completed?

8 MS. LANDRY:

9 It -- other than --

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 The report?

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 -- the Board approving it.

14 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

15 So you do have a report for that?

16 MS. LANDRY:

17 I don't have it on me right now, no.

18 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

19 No. No. I'm saying, but you all have
20 completed that?

21 MS. LANDRY:

22 Yeah.

23 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

24 Okay. Because I haven't seen it. That's
25 what I'm saying. Has anybody else had a copy

1 of it or seen it?

2 MS. FINCHUM:

3 I don't think so.

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 So let me say --

6 MS. FINCHUM:

7 Mr. Crouch, may I ask you a question?

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 Yeah.

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 I'm sorry?

12 MS. FINCHUM:

13 Can I ask you a question?

14 MR. CROUCH:

15 Certainly.

16 MS. FINCHUM:

17 If in our policies and procedures,
18 because it does state date of hire, what
19 ramifications does that put us as a Board into
20 since it has been implemented already without
21 proper approval that the date is going to be
22 changed to March for everyone?

23 MR. CROUCH:

24 It -- it's starting to sound to me like
25 the train has already left the station --

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Yeah.

3 MR. CROUCH:

4 -- but can be fixed, if that's the desire
5 of the Board, but let me -- let me interject
6 something here just as a general thing.

7 I'm -- you're not my only client and so I
8 can't be as deeply involved in your business
9 as I'd like to be, but you are perfectly free
10 any day or any hour to ask me for a legal
11 opinion about some proposal that the Board or
12 the Executive Director is going to take, and I
13 can render a legal opinion.

14 I have always had the impression in
15 listening that the Board was online with this
16 at some point and that the -- that we were
17 going to clean it up in the legislative
18 package that was going to go forward or by
19 rules and regulations. Rules are easy to
20 change. Statutes are a little more
21 politically cumbersome to deal with.

22 So I don't know how to answer your
23 question. It -- Maria may be technically
24 correct, but it was -- it never came to my
25 attention as a formal request for an opinion

1 to say, whoa, put the brakes on, I'm going to
2 give you some advice that you don't have to
3 follow to begin with. All we do is advise and
4 represent. I'm kind of dancing around your
5 question here, but I gather that you're
6 technically correct, Maria. But it was my
7 understanding, and I don't know where I got it
8 from, that the Board was all online with all
9 of this based upon discussions and so forth.

10 MS. LANDRY:

11 And I will say this, I still like the
12 ImageTrend idea. I like where we're going
13 with all of that, but I also represent, as a
14 Board member, companies throughout this state,
15 and I am just bringing up some questions that
16 some of those companies have contacted me
17 about.

18 MR. CROUCH:

19 Gotcha.

20 MR. BLACHE:

21 Okay. Let me -- let me pivot from that.
22 Because like I said, I will do whatever you
23 folks tell me to do. I can go in and rewire
24 things and we can go right back to 260
25 expiration dates a year. I have no problem

1 with that. Because for me, it's not -- it
2 doesn't benefit me nearly as much as it
3 benefits the companies. You know, it's the
4 Ray Coxes of the G4Ss and other companies that
5 are saying, this is saving me money, because
6 now, I don't have to have as many people
7 tracking all this stuff. That was the intent
8 of what was done.

9 MS. LANDRY:

10 Uh-huh.

11 MR. BLACHE:

12 But let me -- let me say this, the
13 statute also says that no person may apply for
14 a registration or a license if they have a
15 felony background. So if we're going to do
16 this letter-of-the-law approach as opposed to
17 the spirit of the law and then use the
18 legislative vehicle, to get this right, the
19 very first thing that should happen from the
20 top down is no one in this industry gets to go
21 into ImageTrend and do an application until
22 the State Board gets \$48 and a set of
23 fingerprint cards. We run them and send --
24 and give you a disposition, because you can't
25 apply, by law, if you have a felony that's not

1 aged ten years or if you're convicted of a
2 violent crime. That is in the statute. It's
3 clear in the statute.

4 That would be a crippling game changer
5 for this industry. I mean, literally, the
6 statute supports me saying, this is how we're
7 going to do business going forward. So
8 start-up company, you're hiring 20 people, you
9 send me 20 times 48, cover sheet, fingerprint
10 card. We run the fingerprint. We get the
11 dispositions back. You've got seven good.
12 Now, you can go apply and your other three
13 can't, and we block them out of the portal.
14 That's how business would function per the
15 statute.

16 We've never done that. I tried to bridge
17 the gap between that extreme measure and what
18 we did in the past. What we did in the past
19 is we let the industry run the henhouse. We
20 let the industry issue state credentials to
21 people and decide when they wanted to share
22 them with us and when they didn't. And we've
23 bridged the gap by going to ImageTrend by
24 saying, you're going to go through our
25 pipeline, and we're going to tell you when

1 you're registered. And we still allow them to
2 apply and work provisionally while we wait 20
3 days potentially for fingerprint cards.

4 So I don't -- I'm bringing that point up
5 because I come from a law enforcement
6 background. And if we're going to be
7 letter-of-the-law and right down the pike,
8 then we can do that. And I am comfortable
9 with that. I have no problem with that. I
10 just didn't want to be the guy that came in
11 and upset the entire applecart along the
12 process. Because I read the statute and I
13 understand how it works.

14 I also understand what the intent of it
15 is. I mean, there's a section in the statute
16 that says, to be a trainer, you have to have
17 three years of supervisory experience, but the
18 qualifying agent requirement doesn't say you
19 have to have it. That's not where it belongs,
20 but we enforce that.

21 And Wendy is not in here right now, but
22 we enforce that when people apply to be a
23 trainer. That's like telling a person, man,
24 woman, or otherwise, you can't teach
25 kindergarten because you don't have a baby or

1 a toddler. It doesn't make sense.

2 So, you know, where feasible, we do
3 everything we can to take a veteran military
4 person or a veteran law enforcement person and
5 find a nexus for them to get to the point
6 where they can, in fact, become a viable, good
7 trainer for the State Board in spite of what
8 mistakes are in the statute. But this
9 particular thing under suitability that I'm
10 referencing is not a mistake. We've talked
11 about this ad nauseam as well. It's very
12 clear, you can't apply or be issued a
13 registration or a license if you have a felony
14 background.

15 MR. CROUCH:

16 That is what the statute says.

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 That's what it says. So I just throw
19 that out there in the midst of the
20 conversation about people in the industry
21 wanting to calibrate towards the rules and the
22 law.

23 MR. RIVERS:

24 Fabian, did it ever change from the past
25 or were they totally doing it incorrectly in

1 the past?

2 MR. BLACHE:

3 Totally doing it incorrectly.

4 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

5 Totally incorrectly.

6 MR. RIVERS:

7 What -- what is that -- what is the --

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 3276 --

10 MR. RIVERS:

11 What were they using?

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 They weren't using -- they were ignoring
14 the statute, I mean. So --

15 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

16 Because, remember --

17 MR. RIVERS:

18 What is it?

19 MR. BLACHE:

20 3276.1.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 Because, remember, you were -- companies
23 were able to issue the cards themselves --

24 MR. RIVERS:

25 Right.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 -- before the people were actually
3 vetted.

4 MR. RIVERS:

5 Right.

6 MR. BLACHE:

7 And if you remember, if you look at a
8 blue form -- could somebody get me a blue
9 form, please?

10 MS. FINCHUM:

11 I appreciate all this information --

12 MR. BLACHE:

13 Yes.

14 MS. FINCHUM:

15 -- but I feel like we're kind of getting
16 off track just a little bit.

17 MS. LANDRY:

18 Yeah, I think we're getting off track
19 too.

20 MS. FINCHUM:

21 Because I think what Maria was
22 referencing is kind of our responsibilities,
23 and we kind of need to go back to that.

24 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

25 No, I think what she was referencing was

1 the cost involved, the burden that it's
2 putting on the company to --

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 Well, both.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 Sure. I get it. Correct.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 I think that's what she was referencing.

9 MR. RIVERS:

10 Well, the registration date and the
11 ImageTrend, that's two -- I mean, we can keep
12 ImageTrend going just like we're going and
13 still have the, like you said, different --

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 Yeah. I mean --

16 MR. RIVERS:

17 -- renewal dates.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 -- you know, if it would be -- if it's
20 the wish of the industry and the Board to go
21 to the dates the way they're written verbatim
22 in the statute, we can make that happen.
23 That's not a problem. But we started talking
24 about bi-mobile licensure cycle in 2016 well
25 in advance of implementation to many audiences

1 of folks. And I've had over 42 training
2 sessions with industry people that have come
3 here and learned about that, and it's never
4 been an issue. But I appreciate the fact that
5 somebody has, in fact, taken issue with it.

6 I just wanted to point out, even on the
7 blue app and to your question, it said, this
8 serves as a temporary card showing that a
9 security officer registration on the
10 below-named individual has been submitted to
11 the State Board; not will be in 20 days. So
12 everything about it was completely out of
13 alignment. And I'm just -- you know, my
14 efforts are designed to try to make it
15 simpler, quicker, and easier to get somebody
16 from Point A to Point B.

17 I mean, look, on background checks, by
18 going to ImageTrend, you know, Mr. Rivers was
19 the man that asked the question before we
20 implemented, how long is this going to take
21 me, because you might cause me some serious
22 problems here. I mean, we're averaging under
23 five days, in many instances, three days from
24 the moment the prints are submitted to the
25 moment we can render a disposition; some

1 cases, one day. And I said in that meeting, I
2 can't tell you, Mr. Rivers, if it's going to
3 be ten or 12, but I know I can do better than
4 four months and five months. And we lived
5 with that for 20-some odd years.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 Yes, we did.

8 MR. BLACHE:

9 So, you know, I understand. I just want
10 to make sure we have a good vision on what the
11 impact of that could be --

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Well, let me --

14 MR. BLACHE:

15 -- if we start tacking --

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 Right.

18 MR. BLACHE:

19 -- in different directions.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 Let me just make a suggestion here is
22 that because it's a concern and because,
23 Maria, you said you had several calls from
24 companies because of it, why don't we, because
25 of the lateness of the hour, because of the

1 weather that we're confronted with now, the
2 weather conditions that are out here, so why
3 don't we table this to the next meeting to
4 have further discussion about it. And then
5 why don't, Ron, you can get some opinions for
6 us? We can request an opinion on it to see
7 how that flows with the state statute. We
8 know that the state statute needs to be
9 changed. We know that there are some
10 provisions in the state statute that's older
11 than anybody here, I meant, that does not
12 apply anymore.

13 So let me just say that I make a motion
14 that we table this until the next meeting for
15 further consideration and opinion. Do I get a
16 second?

17 MS. FINCHUM:

18 Did you have something you wanted to say,
19 Mr. Crouch?

20 MR. CROUCH:

21 I'm sorry?

22 MS. FINCHUM:

23 Did you have something you wanted to say?

24 MR. CROUCH:

25 I just wanted to --

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Um, Misty --

3 MS. FINCHUM:

4 Well, he wanted to say something. I'm
5 not going to --

6 MR. CROUCH:

7 Yeah, that's okay.

8 MS. FINCHUM:

9 -- do anything to --

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 Go ahead and deal with the motion.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Well, I don't know how we suggest that a
14 person wants to say something unless they
15 actually say, I want to say something. If
16 they don't say I want to say something, then
17 we have no way of knowing that they want to
18 say something.

19 MR. CROUCH:

20 Deal with your motion, and then I'll say
21 something.

22 MR. ROBINSON:

23 Second.

24 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

25 Okay. We have a -- we have a motion and

1 we have a second. So we're going to table
2 this until the next meeting.

3 Now, Mr. Crouch, did you want to say
4 something?

5 MR. CROUCH:

6 I just want to say, I want to give you
7 guys some advice about what's going to happen
8 in the coming year. Fabian and I, and I'm
9 going to assist him in coming up with
10 legislative changes to your law that will
11 bring it out of the decades past. But all of
12 those -- any legislative package, any change
13 to a rule, any change to a statute has to be
14 approved by you guys. And once there's a
15 record vote of proving it and it moves
16 forward, you guys just got to live with that,
17 okay. And, of course, legislation, I'm not a
18 politician, but you guys know legislation
19 better than I do, but I resort back to two
20 things you don't want to watch made are law
21 and sausage. And the legislative process
22 is the legislative process. The rule making
23 is my process. That's the part that's easy
24 for me. And drafting legislation is easy for
25 me, and then good luck.

1 MS. LANDRY:

2 Yeah. And I see where you're coming,
3 because I know there can be consequences we
4 don't want to see --

5 MR. CROUCH:

6 I got it.

7 MS. LANDRY:

8 -- because I do work with legislation on
9 the federal level a lot.

10 MR. CROUCH:

11 Bless your heart.

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 And that affects this industry. And so I
14 don't want to see consequences that do present
15 a burden to our industry. But anyway, that's
16 it.

17 MR. BLACHE:

18 That's all I have from my report.

19 MR. CROUCH:

20 And feel free to ask me for a legal
21 opinion any time you want.

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 Okay. Thank you, Ron.

24 MR. CROUCH:

25 Yeah.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 All right. Does that complete your
3 report, Mr. Fabian?

4 MR. BLACHE:

5 Yeah, I'm done.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 Anybody has any questions or comments?
8 If there is no questions or comments, we'll
9 move on to the old business.

10 Any old business?

11 Any new business?

12 MS. LANDRY:

13 I do want to ask to go into executive
14 session.

15 MR. CROUCH:

16 You want to what?

17 MS. LANDRY:

18 Ask to go into executive session.

19 MR. CROUCH:

20 You'll have to amend -- you'll have to
21 amend the agenda.

22 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

23 We have to do an amendment to the agenda
24 for that.

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 Well, I'd like to amend the agenda to go
2 into executive session.

3 MR. CROUCH:

4 It requires a unanimous vote.

5 MR. RIVERS:

6 Second.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 Would you take a vote, please, on whether
9 or not they'd like to go into executive
10 session?

11 MS. HULL:

12 Misty Finchum?

13 MS. FINCHUM:

14 Yes.

15 MS. HULL:

16 Edward Robinson?

17 MR. CROUCH:

18 We have to -- we have to state what it's
19 about.

20 MR. ROBINSON:

21 Yeah, what it's about.

22 MS. LANDRY:

23 Okay. I'll state this is about the
24 recent changes to policies and procedures and
25 any legal ramifications that would come from

1 that.

2 MR. CROUCH:

3 Now, take a vote.

4 MS. HULL:

5 Misty?

6 MS. FINCHUM:

7 Yes.

8 MS. HULL:

9 Mr. Robinson?

10 MR. ROBINSON:

11 Okay.

12 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

13 Yes.

14 MS. LANDRY:

15 Yes.

16 MR. SANDERS:

17 Yes.

18 MR. RIVERS:

19 Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

21 It's been voted on and we have all nays
22 -- I meant, I'm sorry -- all yeas to go into
23 executive session. So we will be going into
24 executive session --

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 And I don't expect it to take very long.

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 -- to discuss policies or procedures --

4 MS. LANDRY:

5 Recent policies --

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

7 -- recent policies and procedures from --

8 MS. LANDRY:

9 -- and any legal ramifications.

10 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

11 Okay. Would everybody kindly leave the
12 room?

13 MR. CROUCH:

14 Except the court reporter.

15 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING WENT INTO
16 EXECUTIVE SESSION)

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(WHEREUPON, THE MEETING CAME OUT OF
EXECUTIVE SESSION)
CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

1 We're out of executive session. We'll
2 look at the determination for the next Board
3 meeting, look at a March date, please. Can
4 anybody get their calendars out and see what
5 would be good for them in March or if there's
6 any dates that's not good for them? That
7 might be easier. Anybody has anything that
8 would not be good for them in March? Would a
9 Thursday still be good, like maybe March 14th?
10 March 14th? March 21st? Does a Thursday work
11 for everybody? We can do it again on the
12 Thursday?

13 MS. LANDRY:

14 Yeah, I'm good on Thursday.

15 MS. FINCHUM:

16 I will not be available March 14th.

17 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

18 How about the 21st?

19 MR. ROBINSON:

20 I have something.

21 MS. FINCHUM:

22 I take that back. I'm sorry, Marian.
23 The 14th, I would be. I had the weeks
24 switched.

25 MS. LANDRY:

1 The 14th?

2 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

3 Okay. Well, does the 14th work for
4 everybody else?

5 MR. RIVERS:

6 Nine a.m.; correct?

7 MR. SANDERS:

8 9:30.

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 We gavel at 9:30.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 We gavel at 9:30.

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 But we do that on purpose just in case we
15 have, you know, traffic issues.

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 Okay. So March 14th.

18 MS. FINCHUM:

19 So the official start time is not until
20 9:30.

21 MR. BLACHE:

22 Yeah, we gavel at 9:30. We were setting
23 them at nine and trying to start at nine and
24 we always had, you know, straggler stuff going
25 on. So we just --

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Let's try and finish the date, the 14th,
3 because the weather is getting worse and worse
4 out there.

5 MR. BLACHE:

6 The 14th.

7 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

8 So the 14th is good for everyone?

9 So it's March 14th.

10 MR. ROBINSON:

11 Is there any way next year that we could
12 set the year's calendar?

13 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

14 Yeah, we can do that. Of course, we can
15 do that.

16 MR. ROBINSON:

17 I've got other things, so you like to be
18 able to put --

19 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

20 Yeah. So we can look at -- we can look
21 at, like for instance, the third Thursday in
22 the month or set it up like that?

23 MR. BLACHE:

24 And then, you guys can decide if those
25 dates are good for you.

1 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

2 Yeah.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 That works.

5 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

6 Is everybody back in --

7 MS. LANDRY:

8 So would the next one be June or July?

9 MR. BLACHE:

10 June.

11 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

12 June.

13 MR. BLACHE:

14 Always towards the end of June, because

15 --

16 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

17 No. No. No, I'm saying we can talk
18 about that for the next meeting.

19 MS. LANDRY:

20 Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

22 All right. So do we have any public
23 comment comments or questions?

24 MR. BLACHE:

25 No.

1 MR. CROUCH:

2 The public is gone.

3 MR. BLACHE:

4 The rain keeps people away.

5 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

6 Well, I make a motion for adjournment.

7 MS. FINCHUM:

8 Second.

9 CHAIRPERSON PIERRE:

10 It's been moved and seconded.

11 This meeting is adjourned.

12 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED)

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

2 I, KELLY S. PERRIN, a Certified Court
3 Reporter, Certificate #23035, in good standing with
4 the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom
5 this hearing was taken;

6 That this hearing was reported by me in
7 stenographic machine shorthand by Computer-Aided
8 Transcription, transcribed by me or under my
9 personal direction and supervision, and is a true
10 and correct transcript to the best of my ability
11 and understanding;

12 That the transcript has been prepared in
13 compliance with transcript format guidelines
14 required by statute or by rules of the board, that
15 I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on
16 contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana
17 Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules
18 and advisory opinions of the board; that I am not
19 of counsel nor related to any person participating
20 in this cause and am in no way interested in the
21 outcome of this event.

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23

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1 This certification is valid only for a
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5 Signed:

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7 KELLY S. PERRIN, CCR

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